

A GENERAL OUTLINE
OF
**THE UNITED STATES
OF NORTH AMERICA,
HER RESOURCES AND PROSPECTS,
WITH
A STATISTICAL COMPARISON,**

SHEWING, AT ONE VIEW, THE ADVANCE SHE HAS MADE IN NATIONAL
OPULENCE, IN THE PERIOD OF THIRTY YEARS.

ALSO,
A COLLECTION OF OTHER INTERESTING FACTS,

AND SOME HINTS AS TO POLITICAL, PHYSICAL AND MORAL CAUSES.

INCLUDING
THE REFUTATION OF A THEORY,

ADVANCED WITH RESPECT TO THIS COUNTRY,
BY A LONDON WRITER, ON THE "STATE OF THE BRITISH
NATION."

BEING THE SUBSTANCE OF LETTERS, ADDRESSED FROM PHILADELPHIA, IN 1823,
TO A FRIEND IN ENGLAND; AND SOME ADDITIONAL MATTER.

Illustrated with Engravings,
INCLUDING A SHEET MAP OF THE UNITED STATES, EXTENDING TO THE PA-
CIFIC; ON WHICH IS A DELINEATION OF THE ACTUAL AND PROPOSED
NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENTS, INTERSECTING THE COUNTRY.

PHILADELPHIA:

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L. Johnson, Printer.

1824.

Eastern District of Pennsylvania, to wit:

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the twentieth day of November, in the forty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America, A. D. 1824, Henry S. Tanner, of the said district, hath deposited in this office the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as proprietor in the words following, to wit:

“A general outline of the United States of North America, her resources and prospects; with a Statistical Comparison, shewing, at one view, the advance she has made in National Opulence, in the period of thirty years. Also, a Collection of other interesting Facts, and some Hints as to Political, Physical and Moral Causes. Including the Refutation of a Theory, advanced with respect to this Country, by a London Writer, on the “State of the British Nation.” Being the substance of Letters, addressed from Philadelphia, in 1823, to a friend in England; and some additional Matter. Illustrated with Engravings, including a sheet Map of the United States, extending to the Pacific; on which is a delineation of the actual and proposed Navigation Improvements, intersecting the Country.”

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, intituled, “An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;” and also to an act, entitled, “An act supplementary to an act, entitled ‘An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned,’ and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching, historical and other prints.”

D. CALDWELL,
Clerk of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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TO

THE ENLIGHTENED PUBLIC.

THE pages here submitted, had their origin, as stated in the titlepage, in a private correspondence. The author has not been solicited to make them public; and therefore, if he errs, he has not the privilege and convenience of saying, it is to be ascribed to the partiality of his friends. He cannot, at an extremity, take shelter there, or shift any part of the weight of responsibility, from off his own shoulders.

The author is aware, that many of the persons, who, by the publication of the work are invited to a perusal of it, may possibly deem this act of publicity to require both prefatory explanation and consequent excuse; and to satisfy such of his readers, in both particulars, as well as he can, he most willingly constructs the present introductory page, and states,

That a while after the period when most of the facts and sentiments were first penned, the suggestion of making them public arose in the author's mind, and was accidental; and the chief and leading motive with him for attending to this suggestion, has been to render of some general utility, that which

was originally private and intended to remain so. And, in order to accomplish this object, he, the author, has endeavoured not to swell out *a book*, but rather to compress his collection of facts within a limited compass, and exhibit them in such reciprocal bearings and connexion, as would be likely to attract the most attention, both to them and to any brief but interesting hints, which the writer could at the same time throw out;—hints of a nature to excite public enquiry, and bring forward superior talents, upon topics, which, by the actual circumstances of this country, and the actual circumstances of the world at large, are rendered, at the present day, of superlative importance; and of course, are more and more intrinsically interesting, as the whole subject is more closely viewed, and critically searched into.

The author trusts that he has now sufficiently *explained* and *apologized*; and would hope, that the *motive* may be received, as sufficient to atone for all deficiencies and faults in the *execution*. All the merit he would presume herein to claim, arises out of the effort he has made, in obedience to the motive, *to bring important matter forward, and introduce it to public scrutiny*.

THE AUTHOR.

Philadelphia, June, 1824.

LETTERS IN DECEMBER, 1822,

AND CONTINUED IN 1823.

Philadelphia, Dec. 8th, 1822.

DEAR SIR,

I met, the other day, with a London work, on the “State of the British Nation” at the commencement of the present year.

The writer of it appears to have talent, and, so far as I can judge, to be well enough supplied with information *at home*, but, with respect to things locally distant, even on occasions when and where correct information is easily accessible, you no doubt have many times been entertained in remarking what mistakes men of ability are apt to slide into when theory is in question: with what readiness, in order to build up and establish a theory, the mind permits itself to be satisfied with almost any unexamined statement of things, as premises to reason from. Do but produce facts as they are, and the whole of them, and you often sadly interfere with conclusions drawn from a spurious, or only partial source;—a distorted or imperfect authority. Touch but the key-stone with more violence than the builder calculated on, and the

edifice falls; the chain of a supposed analogy is at once broken, and perchance a favourite hypothesis upset amid the ruins.

The following extract will show the matter I am led to speak of.

“London, 1822.

“Of all the nations in the world, America has suffered most, by the return of peace. Her commerce, her customs, and her total revenue have been diminished at certain periods since the peace, by more than one half. In the year 1815, the net produce of her customs exceeded thirty-six millions* of dollars. In the year 1819, the produce of the same duties was only seventeen millions, being a diminution of nineteen out of thirty-six. Her total revenue in 1815, was, in round figures, forty-nine and a half millions of dollars. In 1819, her total revenue was not twenty-one and a half. This diminution was chiefly in her customs, which declined from the cessation of her carrying-trade, and the resumption by foreign nations of their own commerce.

“These circumstances in her situation are of so much more importance to us, as they at once explain the cause which, in a less degree, affected ourselves, and as the operation in both countries has been, in kind, the same. As England, during the war, manufactured for the world, America in a very great degree, was the carrier of the world: even her raw produce was raised to an immense price, by the demand for it in the Continent of Europe. There was

* Not war, but peace itself caused this high amount of customs, from a superabundant importation of goods into the United States. It took place after that a war with Great Britain had exhausted the country of British and other goods.

a constant exportation of her flour to England, on an average exceeding five hundred thousand barrels, and in the years 1801, 1802, 1811, it exceeded a million of barrels each. Her flour, cotton, tobacco, and whatever else she exported of raw produce, thus attained a price, exceeding in all articles, one third, and in many, double its present amount. Her freights, her shipping, her navy,—her price of land, her amount of circulating currency, her wages of labour, and her returns of capital;—in a word—her agriculture, her navigation, her commerce, her internal industry and improvements, and whatever she possessed of rough domestic manufactures, increased in the same general rate as amongst ourselves. Under the general competition of one branch of employment with another, added to a universal demand for labour, and the abundance of money in paper and cash, prices rose throughout all commodities, and in every division of industry.

“ The general peace overtook America in this state of things.* Her commerce immediately fell; and fell by nearly one half. Her circulating capital, her paper currency, was necessarily called in, or forced back in the same proportion. Most of her banks, trading only on accommodation, broke up,

* Not so. That state of things had ceased to exist in the United States more than seven years. In December 1807 a restrictive system commenced relative to commerce; which, variously modified, was continued down to the declaration of war against England in 1812.

and by their bankruptcy, and the general alarm excited by it, still further reduced, or rather almost extinguished, their paper medium.

“ Under this general state of things, prices now fell as abruptly in peace, as they had risen during the war. The cessation of a great portion of foreign demand necessarily caused a glut of all raw produce in her markets. Prices thus fell from abundance. The withdrawing of foreign carrying-trade, and of foreign commerce in general, reduced the general income of the nation: and, as this trade had been carried on in a great degree by new men, and as profits, however large, had either been expended by a more profuse mode of living, or been embarked in augmenting stocks, (now violently rendered of less than half their recent value,) income was destroyed before capitals were accumulated. Prices thus fell from the second cause of the reduced general means. The diminution of the quantum of the currency of cash and paper necessarily followed, as above said, the diminution of trade. There were fewer dealings, and of course less occasion for the medium by which they were computed. There was no security in future profits, and of course no loans nor accommodation. There was no employment for capital, and of course neither the means nor the inducement to create or to continue it artificially; and prices thus fell from the third cause of the reduced quantity of money.

“ Under this concurrence of circumstances, America has been suffering in a greater degree than our-

selves, and affords a strong illustration of the actual causes of what we have seen amongst our own merchants, manufacturers, and farmers. If we have suffered indeed in a less degree from some of these causes, it is only because our state of society is more advanced, and our capitalists are less dependent on their income from year to year. The national wealth of England is composed of two descriptions, viz. accumulated capital, and current income. The one may suffer in the vicissitudes of commerce, trade, and the pecuniary value of produce in the markets; but the other fund is necessarily more permanent, and in a rich society, will maintain a large consumption for many successive* years; but in all new countries like America, the national wealth consists of little more than in the annual income. For the time, the withdrawing of income is, with them, reduction to poverty.”

* This is undeniably true, provided it be supposed that those classes of persons in possession of wealth are ready to distribute it; that is to say, provided they have the disposition, as well as the ability, to create and give employment, *at all events*, to the working classes; and thus keep up a large consumption by means, on their part, of an increased expenditure; but otherwise, *not true*.

It avails nothing to the artist, or the labouring man thrown out of employment, that his neighbour is rich, if he himself can be furnished with no material for his industry to work upon.

Now, with all due acknowledgments to the London writer for any sympathy he might intend to express, in considering the hardships enumerated in the case of the United States of America, I may suggest that there are some reasons to induce a belief that this country has not, as a nation, suffered in her substantial interests by the event he particularly speaks of having taken place at the epoch when it did take place. The event, I mean, of the "resumption by foreign nations of their own commerce."

The shock occasioned by it to this nation, was the more transient, and the less severe, inasmuch as the community had already undergone a sort of preparation, by a course of restrictions and curtailment of mercantile pursuits, ever since 1807, a period of more than seven years; during which, a very considerable portion of the capital that had been engaged in foreign commerce, passed into other channels. Besides which, the "surrendering up to Cæsar," being what in the nature of things must, sooner or later, take place, there are strong grounds for thinking that something *propitious* was in the moment which determined the event. The country, whilst in *possession*, availed herself of the immense advantages which that commerce presented, and the capital, created by rapid returns and general circulation, came to be prodigious in amount, considering the few years only which that extraordinary opportunity lasted. The successive increments had been almost wholly directed to the same line of pursuit, which was too alluring by its

immediate profits to admit of any great share of attention being given to other objects; but, before the epoch in question had arrived, the chief part of this accumulated current capital, being released, as above stated, from that employment, had necessarily a new one to seek; and this was found in objects of the highest permanent importance to the nation. It is highly probable that no extra accumulation of floating wealth through the means of commerce exclusively, could have constituted an adequate compensation for delaying to prosecute a very pointed inquiry and deep research, such as had then commenced, into some concerns more literally at home; namely, the exploring and examining into the state of our own possessions, and ascertaining with some degree of precision, what it is that we actually have, and what, with the exertions of an intelligent industry, there may be the means of our having in time to come; and, in consequence, to enter upon such a system of internal improvements as shall ultimately bring forward the powers of the country in production and usefulness, to the utmost point of perfection attainable. In this pursuit much capital has been engaged within the last few years, and it will more and more continue to be so.

The London writer had certainly been misled by erroneous or superficial reports made relative to the state of things in this country. They had presented to him a much too highly coloured picture of our

distresses consequent on the return of peace in the year 1815.

Doubtless, the restoration of peace to Europe, by which it became necessary for the United States, at one and the same time when her own peace was made with Great Britain, to surrender up to different nations, their own respective portions of a property, which she had held as it were in trust, and, during a term of years antecedent to her difference with England, had enjoyed the lucrative benefits of;—doubtless, I say, this did occasion a severe, and a distressing shock to hundreds of individuals amongst us, perhaps thousands, who had embarked their capitals and their credit in commercial enterprises, and who had their plans, and their engagements, and their mode of living; all more or less adapted to a renewal of that state of things, and to no other. But, any serious embarrassments were far from having existence among the people at large; and much less does the inference follow that the nation herself fell thereupon into ruinous circumstances; or, in the writer's own words, that the withdrawing of such “current income” produced by a foreign commerce, was, in the case of the United States, though a young country, “reduction to poverty.”

If the said writer were to view the face, or a part of the face of this country, I do not doubt of his readiness to admit a modification of his maxim in political economy touching young countries. The prefix of *some* for that of *all*, would probably appear to him

a proper change. He would here behold something more tangible and permanent than a mere fleeting shadow; something more real in the people's possession than a mere remembrance of that kind of capital which he denominates "capital of current income," and which his present doctrine would persuade us, hath *passed away and left no trace!*

He would find, whatever may be the case as to numbers of individuals, or their condition, that, with regard to the government and the nation at large, they have neither "slumbered during the harvest," nor been "improvident spendthrifts" in the day of prosperity.

At every point towards which his observation might be directed, he would see evidences of "accumulated capital," and that accumulation moreover in active and spirited operation for greater and continued accumulations; for the attainment of which, perhaps, also, he would perceive that there exists, in the nature and circumstances of this country, combined with those of the times we live in, and under the blessing of Providence, such a field for successful exertion; such a scope for the exercise of intelligent industry, as we are not presented with a parallel to, in the rising circumstances of other nations, either by contemporary observation or from the records of history.

If the said writer, by his observations here on the spot, found the United States still to have the characteristics of a youthful nation, he would also find us,

not still in a state of *helpless infancy*. The whole of that stage of existence has effectually passed away; but it has so passed as to be now succeeded by a youth of vigour; unimpaired, and competent, in itself, to great purposes. In a word, I am well assured the respectable writer would have it made manifest to his observation, that the United States has within herself a very large fund of accumulated wealth or capital;—that, along with good governmental regulation for the freedom and protection of her enterprises, she possesses also science to direct, and industry to execute whatever is desirable in her operations to progressive wealth; and therefore, that we do not fall within that class of young countries, which must, by the vicissitudes of a foreign commerce happening to withdraw an annual income once enjoyed, necessarily be *reduced to poverty*.

But, there is another proposition which stands opposed to the said writer's doctrine as to young countries; the evidence whereof will, I believe, be quite equal to that of the above. It is this; that in a country like the United States, fruitful beyond calculation in various raw productions, as well for manufacture as serving for sustenance; these productions having no limitation in quantity but by the quantity of land which it may please the cultivator to throw into cultivation; with a population extremely limited in comparison with the resources of the soil; at the same time possessing capital sufficient to give scope to all the industry of that population, so as to develop

gradually the resources of the land, and, in bringing these into activity, to multiply periodically both national capital and the quantity of raw materials, in a ratio at least equivalent to the progressive course of the population;—in such a country, I say, so circumstanced, it appears extremely probable, if not amounting quite to demonstration, that any temporary deprivation of an accustomed foreign commerce, or any sudden depreciation in the pecuniary value of produce in the markets, will not, either of them or both, cause so heavy or general a distress to the body of the people, as in the event of a like disappointment, or in other words, the loss of “income” for the time, must be felt in the *older* country, although this latter should be replenished and overflowing with capital, or, in other words, be “rich,” but at the same time, should possess a great and overflowing population compared with the internal resources of her own soil: For, in the latter case, by the very circumstance of a great population, it naturally follows that all the departments of industry are thereby constantly supplied and kept full, or nearly so; and that therefore, in case of disappointment diminishing the proportion of demand in any one branch, there can be but little room for the industry corresponding to it to resort to another branch, in such a way as, that the whole mass of industry may, *at all times*, find employment. It seems quite clear, that the fluctuations of trade, from any sudden unfavourable revolution in things abroad, affecting any particular department of industry en-

gaged therein, will fall the heavier, inasmuch as a remedy is not so immediately within reach as it is in the former supposed case; where the mass of employment bears a greater proportion to that of labour; and where new enterprise, which the circumstances of the country every day give rise to, is continually creating additions to the general mass of employment. In one case, the national industry is dependent, for full employment, partly on events abroad; whilst in the other case, the nation possesses within herself, by means of the advancing state of her improvements, resources for the full employment of her limited population. If, in consequence of the diminution, or the cessation of an accustomed foreign trade, or a fall in value of the country's productions at foreign markets, or of both together, a check be given to these particular pursuits of the capitalist, or we will say, to his pursuits generally, upon the same scale as before; if, by reason of this check, a depression even does take place in the general value of labour, it will yet be found that the fall has not been more violent or disastrous than a fall from very high to less high wages; and, under the circumstances supposed, the languor of a late active course of business can by no means reduce this value disproportionately to the necessities of living, or below the rate of affording a comfortable subsistence to the aggregate industry of the country. Moreover, capital being actually in existence, whilst every day some new object may be presented to the attention of capitalists, for its em-

ployment, it is obvious that any sudden depression in the value of labour from high to moderate wages, arising from foreign causes, can be only of temporary duration. Wages must have a constant tendency to be on a scale considerably above procuring the bare necessities of life, so long as the state of the population bears such a relation to the internal resources of the country as, on every occasion of a fresh or sudden demand for labour, a scanty supply of it can only be had, and so long as there are capitalists who every day may chance to be tempted to bring a part of those resources into activity which previously had lain dormant. The great law of "supply and demand" is well enough known to operate on the price, or wages of labour, as it does on the price of every commodity whatsoever.

I will endeavour, in a few words, to recapitulate, or attempt to vary the point of view, briefly as I can. As this country, by its vast extent and fertility, has, and will have for many years to come, a capability of periodical production in useful articles, great in proportion to its population and to the quantity of industry this population can supply; as also, there are in the country both capital and intelligence, to explore and bring its resources forward; it follows that, so long as the articles produced are in demand, either for consumption at home or at markets abroad, and whether they consist almost wholly in raw produce or have in greater or less proportion undergone a process of manufacture; so long will the labour of the

country at large be well paid, because generally speaking, fully employed, and were there more of it, would still be employed: in other words, wages will continue high; and the comforts as well as the necessaries of life be attainable to the labourer. Again, as the articles of production, besides the circumstance of their great abundance in waiting for the hand of labour, are likewise various in kind, and appertain to different climates, it also follows, that there is room for a freer resort to be had to one class in preference to another, according to fluctuations in the markets and a predominance of demand for one or other kind of production. A partial change is perhaps made for a season, of more or less duration, in the direction of the country's industry and the country's capital; but they both continue to be employed and remunerated.

And finally, as a mind of general intelligence and capacity is found to pervade the population of this country, in so much that there is manifested, in numberless instances, a remarkable aptitude for proficiency in more than one department of industry by the same individual, or same set of individuals; so it follows necessarily, from all these premises together, that the labouring community can not know distress from want; that is to say, the wages of labour will continue good, and wealth be liberally *distributed*. Unless it so happen, that either the powers of the soil, or the faculties of its inhabitants and their present habits, undergo a change; or until the period arrive, when a surcharged population shall furnish a

greater mass of industry than can be employed, in supplying all the current demand at home, and all the current demand in markets abroad collectively. Which period may indeed be very long delayed, if not put off *ad infinitum*,* provided our own domestic wants and refinements do but keep even pace with population; going on to increase and vary their demands upon labour, in its numerous departments, as fast as population can supply it. In which continually growing demands, it is especially to be noted, the

* It may well be understood, that no decision is here intended upon the *abstract proposition*; or the question between "means of subsistence," and the "principle of population" extended to its ultimate effects. There is, happily, scope in this land for a very long period in prospective, during which, it is to be hoped there will exist no cause to view the continual accessions to population, in any other light than as proportionate enlargements of the sphere of human enjoyment. And moreover, considering the signal happiness which has been conferred on all of us at the present epoch, whose lot of existence, it is allowed, has been cast in an age pregnant with wonderful discoveries, perhaps it may not be thought too utopian,—too remote from all reasonable hope, in any genuine philanthropist, if he should even permit his imagination to luxuriate in a belief that there are yet discoveries to be made; not only in the physical world, but also perhaps in modifications of the principle of "moral restraint," or the combination of both together and their application; by which, the resources for both the subsistence and happiness of the human race, may possibly, at a future day, be increased or multiplied to a degree far beyond any calculation that could now be made, or that the generality of mankind have ever yet dreamed of.

entire population enjoys a real effective concern; for, we are most happily exempt from *monopolies*, or as some of them have been termed, "encouragements," favouring or professing to favour particular callings, or some one branch of industry; and operating to the detriment of others and of the community, as is found to be the case in countries where such partialities have obtained a footing. Here, all is free and open to an upright acquisition of wealth, as choice in the mode of pursuit may direct, and to a happy distribution of it when acquired.

But, another combination of a few facts, may perhaps form a conclusive reply to the positions regarding these United States, laid down in the work referred to. I am led to state them thus:

1. It is a fact, that since the establishment of peace, (now about eight years,) which the London writer depicts as so disastrous for the United States, this country has enjoyed such prosperity, that a greater quantity of internal improvement of every description, particularly in giving facilities to intercommunication and trade, one district with another, has actually taken place, than could antecedently be effected in a much longer period of the federal government, and in this same spirit the work is advancing.

2. It is a fact also, that the prosperity of the United States, since the late war ceased, and peace took place, has been so great, that government found it not needful to continue certain taxes which were then in force; and the country is accordingly now exempt from excise and every direct tax to the Fed-

ral Government; whose dependence for revenue, is solely on the customs and the sales of public lands. The which, as things are situated, are found adequate to the national expenditure, including what is requisite for both the interest and the extinction gradually of a moderate public debt.

3. It is moreover a fact, that the public revenue, from the two sources specified, is actually in a state of considerable increase; also, that industry through the country is every day taking a wider range, and a portion of the product of it as constantly converted into "permanent capital," or solid national wealth. This is so conspicuously the case, as to be visible to every one of common observation, whose opportunities lead to a view of the passing occurrences.

And therefore,

4. It appears evident, that the United States, not only did not suffer any great national distress by the return of peace in 1815, but also, that, through the opportunities peace has afforded, she is at this day advanced to a state of much greater affluence than she then, or ever before enjoyed; with the fairest prospect of still advancing in national wealth, and power, and happiness, so long as the state of peace suffers no interruption, and so long, be it especially said, as the government and fundamental institutions of the nation, which now have successfully undergone the test of experience, shall subsist in their purity and energy, and, together therewith, so long as public and private good morals shall continue to be cultivated and cherished in the land.

ALTHOUGH in the foregoing pages, I have much surpassed perhaps, what was meet to be said in the reply I undertook, yet with your leave, I will still prosecute the interesting theme of this country, and advance with it a stage or two farther.

The President's opening message to Congress has reached this city from Washington. You will read it in the public prints, and doubtless with interest; and perhaps will find in it a confirmation of some of my remarks on the "state of the nation." You will at the same time, I believe, discern, that along with the many warm and well applied congratulations to the country, suggested by the present situation of affairs, there is the opposite of any tendency, to relax in salutary vigilance and precaution. Our Government has still a watchful eye, that steadily is looking forward to reverses and the worst that may happen. Critics we have, who believe they discover in the composition, that the key note is war, military power, &c. &c. &c. but perhaps without the smallest just foundation; for the usual reply may be, and in point of fact is, given, that if we are enjoined to arm ourselves "at all points," and keep on the alert, it is, that such a state of preparation is the most likely preservative in favour of peace, or, at the worst, constitutes such kind of ready means as the nation ought to be furnished with, of asserting her rights with effect, in any emergency that may by possibility

happen. The which, as things have gone in the world, considered, you will probably say is not unwise policy. The President, too, is a friend to a vigorous prosecution of internal improvements, although for mere commercial purposes, or indeed for almost any purpose other than defensive, they are thought by him, not to have been brought by our constitutional pact, within the province of the federal government.

Of course, you have heard much of the New York canals, a western one, length 350 miles and upwards, to connect Lake Erie at Buffalo, with the Hudson at Albany; a northern one, to connect the waters of the St. Lawrence river via Lake Champlain, with the Hudson also. The latter is finished, save a short cut hereafter to be made into the other. Governor Clinton laid the last stone at Watersford a few days ago, and witnessed the passing of boats, which had come from Lake Ontario, via the St. Lawrence and Sorel rivers: the western canal is expected, from official report, to be finished in 1825.

The undertaking of these works in the State of New York, in 1817, although, by reason of its magnitude, it did not at the time escape the shafts of ridicule, had soon the effect of an extra stimulant to us at most of the leading points of the country, for similar undertakings; and this spirit, which now becomes every day more and more diffused, there seems good reason to believe will, before the lapse of many years, give existence to a great chain of public or private

works, (canals, roads and bridges) through the country; all uniting in one object; that of giving as much facility as can be devised to commercial intercourse, one district with another, of our vast regions. As a necessary consequence, there will be brought into activity the various resources of the interior, those which already are, with more or less precision, known to exist, and others (many no doubt) yet to be explored; and thus to multiply the materials for domestic exchange and use, as well as for foreign trade.

Foreign trade, and home trade, will thus go on flourishing together, and advancing towards that period, when markets are no longer to be found abroad for the increasing quantities of our exportable productions. To arrive speedily at which period, nothing, it is probable, will be left unattempted, which the spirit of improvement I have just now mentioned can stir up any hopes of accomplishing; and under such an influence, nothing short of a very general circulation of useful industry must be quickened and receive accelerated force; increasing, in a proportionate degree, the national wealth and security.

Considering these things, one may naturally be led to propound the question, what are the nation's ultimate prospects? what is the state she may arrive at?

There is indeed some danger of a visionary temerity in our anticipations, if a latitude of indulgence be allowed, in imagining what the national means hereafter will be capable of accomplishing within certain given periods; especially should these periods embrace any great distance of time: but, in taking a review of the present state of America, and recurring to what America was, only a very few fears ago; if a careful examination be made into the causes which, in so short an interval, have brought about this great difference of condition; if also, the spirit of the times, which actuates present exertion, be duly considered; we may in this way, free from any risk of being grossly mistaken in the speculation, carry our ideas forward to a short distance, and form a conjecture of what is to happen, within at least a limited period of the future: always, however, I would still say, with a proviso, that in this operation, we do not omit to make allowances for the occurrence of political disaster; of the which, although it may happen to seem most unlikely, if not impossible, that any should intervene, of such a nature as to defeat altogether the consummation of certain national objects suggested within our mind, yet various degrees of mischance may, notwithstanding, be continually starting up in a shape to delay the fulfilment of events, and thereby vary the real periods or stages of the nation's advancing state of prosperity, from those periods of time which calculation, without such allowances, would have assigned to it.

But, in forming our conjectural estimate of the future advancement of this country in riches and power, we are released, it seems, from reasoning by that course of analogy which has reference to what has happened in and to other countries. We are released, as a consequence to our very great dissimilarity of political situation, with any other nation of which history makes any report.

Some striking difference in our lot, physical or moral, is obvious on every comparison that can be made. It may be observed,

That our Geographical position, or place on the globe, in relation to neighbourhood, or to facility of being approached; at the same time that it protects us from all outward future danger, supposable or probable, in the shape of invasion or of encroachment, imposes on us no necessity for the adopting of measures of partiality in our external concerns, through the means either of alliances or otherwise; no political restraints; but on the contrary, secures us in the exercise of a free intercourse with every other nation, in all the latitude which our own interest and the law of mutual accommodation may suggest and find expedient.

That our political institutions at home, in all their detail, are adapted, or at least, that we are at full

liberty to improve and adapt them, to our actual occasions and the state of the times, in the fullest extent of their usefulness; unshackled and without restraint, from the consideration of any claims to partialities or inexpedient privileges, amongst the members of our own body politic; such, for instance, as we may suppose to have been derived from ancient customs and obsolete opinions, or to have had an origin in any state of society and things in “olden times,” incongruous with the present.

That the nation (or people, both collectively and individually) has all the power desirable over her periodical revenues; that is to say, has liberty to apply the totality thereof,—diminished only by a small portion payable partly for interest on a moderate public debt and partly for local taxes; to the purposes of her advancement in prosperity. It is mostly converted into fresh active capital in the hands or management of individuals.

Free, therefore, *without* and *within*, so to express it—exempt from any entanglements constraining the nation in her measures regarding external relations; and at home, exempt alike from restraints of *privilege*, as well in all the routine of govermental regulations and measures for the public weal, as in the several vocations or pursuits of individuals, which have

not been encumbered, for instance, with either corporation—claims or compulsory apprenticeships:—In a word, liberty in the nation, both collectively and individually, to pursue (on equitable ground) her own undeviating course; and that liberty connected with a command over nearly the whole amount of her periodical revenues, applicable consequently to her advancement:—these are traits, which are not found in the circumstances of other nations. It may further be observed,

That, if along with these distinguishing traits, it be true that there exists a bountiful endowment of intelligence; or, in other words, a good sound understanding amongst all ranks of people; that understanding, I mean, which is the result of strong intellect from nature, exercised by habits of local observation and inquiry, (for by the way, inquisitiveness and a roving propensity are allowed to be American characteristics) aided also in general by at least an elementary education; in such sort that, most commonly, no very incorrect or unsound judgment is formed by any class or number of individuals taken together, not merely regarding the particular immediate calling of each individual respectively, but upon topics of more general concern, and such especially as regard the value to be attached to those benefits actually arising to each as members of the body-politic, compared with any

supposable different state of things in the country and the country's institutions.*

That, if it be true withal, that *enlightened intellect* is by no means parsimoniously scattered through the land; but rather, our youthful stage of existence considered, that the country has become possessed of a liberal share of *cultivated talent*; imbued, I hope I may say, with the unction of both patriotism and philanthropy; zealous on one hand, in the cause of religion, morality and science; in another direction, prepared for the high purpose of assisting to guide and work the great machine of state. In which last vocation, perhaps this portion of the country's abilities is not the less expert and efficient for having grown up whilst the machine has been forming into its present shape and circumstance of consistency, solidity, and power; and for having consequently, had opportunity to inspect and review all or most of its springs, and fixtures, and other distinct parts, as they have been fashioned and brought together.

* At this place, I can not refrain from a quotation: not only as it is a passage apposite to this branch of my subject, but as the imagery it embraces in a small compass is delightful to the fancy. It is from an American living writer; the several productions of whose pen aid in deciding a question that has been more than needfully agitated, and form in themselves, a fine illustration of the fact, that a very young country can be a possessor of taste and talent in *general literature*. It is now some years since the occurrence took place, and since, of course, the quoted article was written.—See Appendix.

I say then, if these last positions, which, though I have stated them hypothetically, will probably be as little disputed as those which precede, be granted, it must, I conceive, likewise be granted, that the United States departs still more widely, that is to say, considered as a nation in the vigour of youth, from the precise line of analogy, or similarity of circumstance with other nations, ancient* or modern; and therefore, that her prospective career is not to be measured in idea by any series of events which have ever happened hitherto to them. In the speculation before us, we dismiss the ancient guide, and start with a new one. It is the act of comparing America with America herself; from the recent past, to infer the proximate future. Which, with the discretionary allowances always understood, will, I trust, prove a safe conductor, and lead to what time shall unfold to be the TRUTH.

Permit me then, to bring you to a few plain arithmetical and other facts, exemplified in the following brief—

* The ancients we have every reason for believing, did never, in their maturest state of civilization and refinement, enjoy the benefits of a spread of general knowledge and moral character, into the lower grades of society. And we have still better authenticated assurances, as to the flourishing nations of modern times, that such benefits did not attach to them in the early periods of their history. Their youthful state, on the contrary was, through the lower orders, *barbarism*.

STATISTICAL COMPARISON.



CUSTOMS.

In the year 1792 the Net amount of customs, or Impost and tonnage duties
 was
 In the year 1821 the same was

£ 4,614,924
 15,898,434

This increase being strictly referable to the progress of the country, and not in any degree an effect of temporary and accidental causes. Immediately after the war with England, excessive importations of goods took place, whereby the customs in 1815 rose to the enormous sum of £37,695,625. In 1816 they amounted to £28,571,502. From which they fell, with some fluctuation, to their lowest in 1820, viz. £12,449,556, and now, they are on the rise again, correspondent to the natural peaceable state and course of things actually existing. It is worthy of being here again noticed, that so easy is the United States in her fiscal matters, the whole present dependence of government for revenue is upon the customs, and sales annually of public lands; and apparently, provided the nation continues to be blessed with peace, will these two sources alone, I repeat it, be sufficient for years to come, not only to

face the needless expenditure as hitherto, which includes a gradual redemption of the public debt, but moreover, to provide for and maintain augmentations in the public force and public works, for national protection and other requisite objects. All this, without the aid of an excise, or direct internal tax of any description. It may appear superfluous in me to remark, by the way, that in all our separate state and district jurisdictions, taxes are necessarily assessed and paid, for police regulations and requisite local conveniences.

PUBLIC LANDS.

⑤ In the year 1792, the amount of sales of public lands was Nothing.
In . . . 1821, the amount was Doll. 1,300,980

EXPORTS.

In	1821, the same was	•	•	•	•	•	64,974,382
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Of this export of 1821, the classification is as follows:

Produce of agriculture,	Doll.	35,407,992	
do. of the forest,	•	3,794,342	
do. of the fisheries,	•	1,499,188	
do. of manufactures,	•	2,262,612	
do. not specified,	•	707,760	
	—	43,671,894	
Foreign articles reshipped	•	•	21,302,488
	Doll.	64,974,382	—

In some years, when Europe has happened to furnish an extra demand for grain and flour, besides the current one for our other staples, the domestic export of the United States was greater than as above; but the principle on which the comparison is made, is, that nothing hath operated besides the natural and regular state and course of things; in order that a just conclusion may be drawn from it. In 1821 there was no extra demand.

(See Appendix for 1822 and 1823.)

TONNAGE.

In the year 1792, the amount of merchant tonnage of the United States was, viz.		
Vessels engaged in foreign voyages,	• 411,438	Tons.
Do. in the coasting trade and fisheries,	• 153,919	
	564,457	
In 1807, it had increased as follows:		
Vessels engaged in foreign voyages,	• 848,306	
Do. in the coasting trade and fisheries,	• 420,242	
	1,268,548	
In 1815, the first year after peace was restored, it stood thus:		
Vessels engaged in foreign voyages,	• 854,294	
Do. in the coasting trade and fisheries,	• 513,833	
	1,368,127	
In 1821, it was as follows:		
Vessels engaged in foreign voyages,	• 593,825	
Do. in the coasting trade and fisheries,	• 705,132	
	1,298,957	

Here it may be observed, that if the portion of tonnage engaged in foreign voyages has, since peace took place, decreased in amount, yet, the decrease of that commerce is not a necessary deduction; for the greater celerity and certainty with which voyages are now performed, will admit of a much increased exportation, and importation, and transportation of commodities by a diminished number of ships. It may likewise be remarked, that our tonnage of the coasting trade and fisheries, has augmented in a greater proportion than the other tonnage has lessened.

POST ROADS.

			Miles.	
In	•	1791, the extent of Post roads in the United States, was	•	• 1,905
In	•	1792, the same	•	• 5,642
In	•	1817, the same	•	• 51,600
In	•	1820, the same	•	• 71,522
In	•	1821, the same	•	• 79,808
In	•	1822, the same	•	• 85,554

(See Appendix.)

NAVY.

In the year 1792, the Naval force of the United States was

In 1797, the same consisted of 3 Frigates, whereof 2 of 44 guns,
1 of 36 do. { These.

In 1822, the same comprised 11 Line of Battle Ships of 74 guns
8 Frigates of 44 do.
2 do of 36 do. { These.
6 Sloops of war,
Steam Batteries, Brigs, Schooners,
Gun boats, Galleys, &c. and ma-
terials prepared for a gradual in-
crease.

POPULATION.

In	the year	1790,	the population of the United States, by census, was, viz.	
Free inhabitants, exclusive of Indians,	.	.	3,190,455	Souls.
Slaves,	.	.	694,280	
			—————	
In	the year	1820,	the same, by census, was,	
Free inhabitants, exclusive of Indians,	.	.	8,099,871	
Slaves,	.	.	1,538,128	
			—————	
			9,637,999	

In the year 1790, the territory of the United States, or the old constituents, then represented in congress, consisted of.

	Sq. Miles.
New Hampshire,	9,491
Massachusetts, including Maine,	46,250
Rhode Island,	1,580
Connecticut,	4,674
New York,	45,000
New Jersey,	8,320
Pennsylvania,	46,800
Delaware,	2,120
Maryland,	14,000
Virginia,	70,000
North Carolina,	48,000
South Carolina,	24,080
Georgia,	62,000
Vermont,	10,237 Sq. miles.
	392,552

Which makes in the year 1790, an *average* population, on this surface, of something less than ten to a square mile. At the time here specified, we were at war with the native Indians, who then possessed much the greater part of the now flourishing state of Ohio, and who, the following year, 1791, beat us in pitched battle. Our egress as well as ingress, by the river Mississippi, was at that time commanded by Spain; who held in possession the island and territory of New Orleans, and all Louisiana and the two Floridas.

In the year 1820, the picture now, somewhat changed and filled up, as follows, viz. Settlements of the United States much extended, particularly to the W. and SW. Her territory vastly enlarged, by cessions from France and Spain. Her position as a *whole*, strengthened by these acquisitions, which consist of New Orleans, Louisiana and the Floridas, and amongst other advantages conferred by them on the United States, is the very important one of sovereignty over the river Mississippi. Her present territorial area, taken in a full sense, is not easy to calculate, particularly as all surveys for nice admeasurements, W. of the Chippewa or Stony Mountains, or even for accu-

rate boundary lines in that quarter, are yet wanting. But, so far as regards admission into the federal body, by actual representation in congress, it now stands thus:

	Sq. miles.
The old States as above,	392,552
Kentucky,	39,000
Tennessee,	40,000
Ohio,	40,000
Indiana,	36,640
Mississippi,	44,500
Illinois,	51,000
Alabama,	45,500
Louisiana,	48,220
Missouri State and Arkansa Territory, so much of these together, as may probably comprehend the present settled parts within the two,	100,000
Florida Territory,	54,600
Michigan do.	27,000
	919,012

Giving an average population in 1820, of something more than ten to a square mile over this large surface; so that the population of the country, and the increase of settled territory, have about kept even pace since the year 1790. It appears that this increase is as three to seven or thereabout, for the thirty years.

To this surface of country, which is actually represented in congress, there is to be added as follows:—

A territory designated "North West Territory," skirting between Lakes Michigan and Superior, also extending W. and SW. of Lake Superior, as far as the river Mississippi. Most or all of which, still in possession Sq. miles. of the Indians; about 147,000

The region situate W. of Missouri State and the Arkansas Territory, and E. of the Stony Mountains. In possession of the Indians, estimate 560,000

Beyond the Stony, or Chippawan Mountains, including Columbia river-valley, to the Pacific, extent uncertain; but, not to leave a blank, suppose	500,000
	—————
This gives, Unsettled territory	1,207,000
Settled do.	919,012
	—————
Total	Sq. miles 2,126,012
	—————

There is reason for believing that the computations here given, of unsettled country, are much within bounds. The area of the United States has been stated, in round numbers, at 2,000,000 of square miles, without including the part situate W. of the Chippewan or Stony Mountains.

Now, these facts in view, how stands the proposition between us? You will remark that, although in my statement above, our Navy finds an anchorage corner, yet I have not introduced into quarters the army and appendages, military posts, fortifications, &c.

Without any particular enumeration of these, or of many other objects, which, besides the above, might have been brought into view, and considered as national acquisitions, the sketch, as I give it, is abundantly sufficient for the purpose, which was not to sum up into one total, the wealth of the country at this day, but, by a comparison of the leading features in her condition at the commencement, with the same at the close of a period of 30 years, to show what the state of this country is, *relatively to herself*; and to draw an inference.

I ask then, how stands the proposition? Shall we say, if a given power, exerted during a limited time, produces additional power in a certain ratio; will not this augmented power, exerted with equal force, in a

like limited time, produce a second augmentation of power in the same ratio? And what will the whole then amount to, compared with the original? And so on, at successive periods of like duration, each, what will the aggregate of power thus brought into existence respectively and finally be? If our national means in their present accumulated state, be exerted through the future, with the same vigour and equally forcible concurrent circumstances, as, from original means, has been experienced during the period of our history under consideration, what will this result be, in time, or times, to come?

It might indeed at once, by this “rule of three” method, which sometimes has been likewise named “the golden Rule,” be accurately defined, and therefore confidently anticipated in all its parts, but for the *one thing*, which has been adverted to, as always understood, and necessary to have a place in such operations; namely, *a latitude of allowances for human casualty*, in order to bring events and periods properly together. In forming and distributing these allowances, lies the only difficulty.

And now, if you please, I will leave the problem where it is, for you to solve; by combining with the premises such contingencies, of a nature to obstruct or affect our national career, as you foresee, or conjecture may happen, and may happen to fall within one or other of the periods alluded to, or within such

period or periods as may be contemplated in your mind. It gives me pleasure to despatch it over to you, in its present form and state, for the exercising of your judgment upon a proper solution; and I hope, at least, the process will agreeably entertain your imagination. In order to assist a little, I proceed to offer, as I proposed to do, a few additional considerations, along with the above table of facts and previous matter.

To remark, how little we are removed, in point of time, from the very epoch of our infancy in the scientific arts, as well as in some other attainments; when canals were first projected in Pennsylvania, to unite the rivers Susquehanna, Schuylkill, and Delaware, a gentleman was sent for from England, expressly to carry on the works. They were commenced; but it only served to prove that the country was not then mature for such undertakings, as, after the expenditure of a large sum of money, the project was dropped.

Only thirty years and some months have elapsed since that gentleman came over from England, to assist us; and at the present day it is certain, were a call to be made on us (allowing the supposition) to return the service in kind—it is certain, I say, that we could do it with great facility, and perhaps with no small credit to that department of the country's acquired practical knowledge. Engineers and Architects are numerous in the United States; men of acknowledged talent, uniting science with practical and successful business. Our bridges are, some of them, perhaps

not unworthy to be admired, as models for imitation, in almost any country. In short, let there be but a call made for the exercise of skill upon any object, through a vast range of ingenuity, particularly mechanical and of the *useful*, and I believe, an occasional reference to the office of our much respected friend at Washington, and inspection into some of its contents,* would be sufficient to bear me out in saying, it can almost instantly be supplied. You are of course no stranger to the character of Mr. Perkins's establishment in London, and perhaps know something intimately of his new discoveries in steam. Col. Fairman, a connexion in the engraving line, might formerly be known to you in Philadelphia.

But, if the concurrent progress and diffusion of useful science, with the growth of this country in population and settlement of territory within so short a period, be very remarkable, the rapid increase of her capital to its present extent, it must be allowed, is as much or more so; for there can be no doubt it is to this very occurrence, that the nation's other acquisitions are in a great degree attributable. The disproportionate increase of wealth, whatever the amount of that disproportion was, which so favourably influenced our situation in other respects, may be traced to that lucrative course of foreign trade al-

* This collection now forms an immense national museum of the arts, and presents a most interesting spectacle.

ready spoken of; which was prosecuted during some years of the period, and was such, in regard to extent of profit, as may not again occur; these United States having become, for a while, carriers, in a great measure, to the belligerent world, and having besides, the raw productions of her soil raised to an excessive price in the markets of Europe and elsewhere.

Capital, or in other words, *available riches*, whether for the purposes of agriculture, commerce, or manufactures, the general comforts of society, or the political strength and aggrandizement of the nation, must of necessity accumulate, in some degree or other, in any free state, where industry is duly exerted, even although the advantages of an external commerce should happen to be entirely wanting, until such time as the population becomes excessive; or beyond the soil's capability of furnishing to its numbers the means of sustentation and the other enjoyments. If the state possesses also a foreign commerce, her field of industry is widened, and her prosperity accelerated, according to the extent and opportunities of the same. With regard to the United States, as her foreign commerce at the epoch alluded to, was great, and the opportunities which it afforded, almost, if not quite, beyond any example, so it may confidently be affirmed, that she realized a considerable excess of wealth, over and above that which would naturally have accrued to her from equally industrious exertions, had the times and sea-

sons continued merely as before. And thus the nation was indebted, for the excess, to an accidental occurrence. On the other hand, a war of two years and a half with Great Britain, which was also an accidental occurrence, operated for the time it lasted, to check the accumulation of wealth, and carry us backward. In what degree or proportion we retrograded I do not decide; but we acquired, as a nation, some profitable knowledge and experience, even from that occurrence; in particular, a much more intimate acquaintance than we had before, with *ourselves* and the resources of our interior. Our strength too, having become great, and our stock been enlarged and multiplied, we could well spare something out of our abundance.

The population of the United States, it is reasonable to suppose, will about maintain the same proportional advancement as of late, for many years to come; the natural effect of industry and capital, employed upon lands selected out of a superabundance, furnishing an easy subsistence to the cultivator. So that by this condition of the country, population and agriculture will necessarily increase together, and probably their respective increments will be nearly proportional. The latter however, i. e. agriculture, will so regulate itself, that, in articles serving for food, the quantity produced will always be proportioned to the country's wants, together with such superfluity as any foreign demand can carry off. And, as to the raw materials for manufacture, whenever the quantity produced of these shall become excessive, so that an adequate price for the whole can no longer be obtained in the markets abroad, we shall then, notwithstanding, go on to produce those articles, and increase their amount, as before, by bringing successively into service, fresh increases to our lands under cultivation: but, from that moment, it is evident,

manufactures will claim special attention. They will claim it, inasmuch as a portion of the nation's industry and capital may then be profitably turned into that channel, without requiring the aid of *bounties, prohibitions, or excessive import duties*; the effects of which unnatural stimulants, are necessarily injurious to the other orders of industry, and in a degree, more or less, always so to the whole nation where they prevail; as can easily be proved, and so conclusively proved, from experience and the lights of the present day thrown upon this subject, as to amount to demonstration in the mind of every well informed and competent analyzer of the question. The same lights also show, that in but a very few cases, if any, have those artificial *aids*, formed out of legislative interference, had the effect of conferring more than a mere transient benefit on the very class itself, namely, one branch or other of manufacturing interest, in whose favour the partiality has been manifested. The benefit in this way, enjoyed at first by a few capitalists only, must speedily be shared with other men of capital, who will bring forward equally just and valid claims to *exclusive privilege*, and come in for a share of the *monopoly*.

Manufacturing employments will with us, it is to be hoped, in their own proper time, advance to their station, and succeed, according to the natural course and order of things. All attempts, I undertake to repeat, in the form of laws, made to bring forward par-

ticular employments whilst yet immature, are worse than nugatory: and it behoves the United States of the present period, well to guard against entailing upon the United States of after-times, like injurious consequences to those now experienced by some nations of the world, from commercial regulations *by law*, on the plan of *privilege and exclusion*, the work of former ages. At the present day, the evil of these regulations, in many instances, is severely felt; yet does not, in most cases, admit of an easy removal, by reason of their having grown into systems, in which conflicting interests of magnitude and great complication are involved.

All excessive duty of impost on the commodities of importation, is of the nature of a burthensome tax on the community; and if laid upon particular selected articles, for the partial purpose, or with the partial effect of favouring one class of individuals and injuring another class, it is made additionally oppressive and exceptionable. Mr. Malthus is not the only writer who has commented with force upon the evils arising from this branch of taxation; which may well be styled *unnecessary*, or *inadvertent taxation*. Myriads, who are not writers, in different countries, may be found to attest that they are made to *feel* the pressure of such taxes; and in no case or shape more grievously than where a rigorous excise has been instituted, and resorted to for revenue, in the place of a judicious moderate tariff of customs; the customs,

in such instances, having been precluded from their natural productiveness, through prohibitions of some foreign articles, and excessive importation duties on some others, tantamount nearly to prohibition; both of them too, holding forth encouragement to the immorality of contraband practices. So that, in all respects that can well be thought of, the nation is made to suffer by an injudicious prohibitory tariff wherever such a thing prevails. Her revenue to government from customs, if not destroyed, is lessened by it; the public are constrained to pay an exorbitant price for an inferior home fabricated article; and the privileged manufacturer himself, has in his turn, together with the payment of excise duties, to entertain the domiciliary visits of the officers of an excise establishment.

But to revert, for a moment, to manufactures within the United States; we do manufacture at the present time, and successfully, in a limited way; the New England district always has manufactured, both for home use, and transportation, and exportation; and the annual amount of Pennsylvania manufactured articles is now large;* many of them of the very

* The value of dutiable articles, that is, such as if imported would have paid duty, now manufactured within the United States, annually, has been computed at 30,000,000 dollars, and probably it is much greater. Certainly much greater. The city and suburbs of Philadelphia alone, contain about

first quality, and of highly finished workmanship; Philadelphia and Pittsburg may in fact both be termed manufacturing cities: but how distant, or how near, the period may be, when the United States is to become, emphatically speaking, *a manufacturing country*, is a problem for solution.

It may, without any disadvantage, on the contrary with advantages, be delayed, except as to a limited progressive extent, so long as there can be found markets abroad for the vast increasing produce of her soil. Possessing, however, as the United States appears to do, peculiar inherent advantages and resources, as well in regard to process, as in the variety and quantity of raw materials to work upon; there is a probability that whenever the time does arrive, it will be found that she has, in addition to all other means, been gradually collecting from various quarters, and has formed within herself, a body of experienced practical talent, capable of prosecuting various departments of manufacture, on a very large scale.

five thousand looms in full operation, and thirty cotton factories; some of which, are not inconsiderable establishments. The mechanical work, in machinery, amounts high.

FOREIGN commerce, in the wide sense of the word, if it cannot, in peaceable times, like the present, be carried on by the United States, with similar beneficial results to those engaged in it, and of course to the country, as it was at the particular period which has been noticed, will notwithstanding ever continue to be one of the staple sources of wealth to the country; and her commercial flag will continue to be highly respected and respectable in the ports of foreign nations. The goodness of her ships and seamen, the enterprizing spirit of her merchants, and the moderate terms on which she can navigate, are circumstances likely always to ensure to her a full share in the general competition; and probably indeed, the sea-commerce of the United States will not descend in rank, or be second to that of any nation besides that of Great Britain.

But, in times hereafter, whether of peace or war, this branch of national pursuit, respectable, and even great, as it may be, and necessary to us as it now is and must continue to be, will rank but secondary in

importance, compared with the whole *domestic commerce* of the nation, or that in which the productions of the land are in some way concerned; a definition, however, which I am aware, embraces some portion of the sea-commerce we have just been considering. I make this domestic commerce to consist,

1. In effecting exchanges of commodities, between one district or place, and another, according to the different wants of the inhabitants of each.
2. In transporting to ports of deposite, that portion of commodities destined for exportation, and exporting the same.
3. In supplying the interior with imported articles, derived from the sales of commodities exported.

And, considering the diversity of the country's useful productions, consequent on a variety in soil and climate, through so great an extent of territory, there seems indeed to be scarcely any supposition of advantages that a speculative mind can make, which may not possibly, in future times be realized, by an assiduous cultivation of these commercial opportunities within ourselves.

It has been observed, by a gentleman* of ingenuity in his profession, that the natural commercial facilities between the Atlantic States of the country, and the valleys of the great rivers Mississippi and St. Lawrence, admit of three divisions: they are these,

Northern division. All that part of North America, watered by the St. Lawrence river and its confluent branches, situate to the north of Niagara Falls. This will continue to have its principal commercial outlet and inlet, by that river, through Montreal and Quebec.

South and SW. of the rapids of the Ohio at Louisville. For the principal outlet to exportable commodities, the production of human industry in this great district, New Orleans is by nature pointed out; of course also the natural channel for supplies of foreign articles needed by the district in return. The exceptions to this course eventually, whether great or small, may be considered as owing chiefly to facilities of general communication, in the degree of perfection to which these facilities may be carried by artificial improvements through the country.

* Mr. Wm. Darby, topographical engineer, and late one of the commissioners of the United States for determining boundaries under the treaty with Great Britain.

Middle District. Between the Falls of Niagara and the rapids at Louisville, and from the Alleghany Mountains to the sources of the rivers of Lake Superior; this constitutes the natural middle district; and New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, appear admirably situate as competitors for the profits of commercial exchange therewith. The city of Detroit and Buffalo, also Cincinnati and Pittsburg, are found within the natural channel of intercourse here presented; besides which, it is easy to perceive that many intermediate towns, through this interesting tract of country, must rise into great importance, according as they will be found to be advantageously located for thoroughfares and places of temporary deposite. Some situations of the district, it is however, to be observed, do at present deviate in their trade from this course; and no doubt, eventually may continue to do so, more or less; in some instances occasionally, in others permanently. Without any question, artificial improvement on the Canada border of the lakes and river St. Lawrence, as well as on our border, will be carried to as great perfection as local circumstances admit of, for the purpose of giving facility to transportation: for which, and other reasons, it may be expected that, in regard to some parts of the country, a competition will subsist between the Canada outlet, through Montreal and Quebec, and the United States' outlet through her Atlantic ports abovementioned.

The same professional gentleman has given us a computation, in square miles, of the three grand divisions of country in question, as thus:—

The Valley of the St. Lawrence, below Niagara Falls, as above described;	area computed, Sq. Miles.	240,000
The Middle or central section, . . . do.	320,000	
The South and SW. do. . . do.	1,200,000	

And, by a different mode of statement, we are presented with a comparative computation of the whole superficies of country drained by the St. Lawrence river and that drained by the Mississippi, including the tributary streams, or branches of each, as follows:—

TABLE

OF THE SUPERFICIES DRAINED BY THE MISSISSIPPI.

	Medial Length.	Medial Breadth.	Area.
Valley of the Ohio river,	700	300	210,000
Do. of the Mississippi proper, above the mouth of the Missouri,	750	300	225,000
Do. of the Missouri and confluent,	1350	500	675,000
Do. of the Arkansas river,	1100	100	110,000
Do. of Red river, whereof some part lies within the Spanish Territory.	1000	100	100,000
Strip lying E. of Mississippi and below the mouth of Ohio,	400	70	28,000
Valleys of White, and St. Francis rivers,	200	250	50,000
Total Area of the Mississippi Valley,			<u>1,398,000</u>
			Sq. miles, 1,398,000

TABLE

OF THE SUPERFICIES DRAINED BY THE ST. LAWRENCE.

	Medial Length.	Medial Breadth.	Area.
Tract lying NW. of Lake Superior,	300	80	24,000
Tract . . . NE. of do.	400	80	32,000
North of Lake Huron, and W. of the sources of Ottawa river,	200	200	40,000
Peninsula between Lakes Huron, Erie, and Ontario,	200	80	16,000
North W. of St. Lawrence, below the sources of Ottawa river,	700	220	154,000
Tract lying SE. of St. Lawrence from its mouth, to the mouth of Richelieu or Sorel,	500	50	25,000
Triangle included between Black, St. Lawrence, and Richelieu rivers,	330	50	16,500
South of Lake Ontario, and W. of Black river,	200	80	16,000
South and SE. of Lake Erie, and East of Maumee river,	300	30	9,000
Peninsula of Michigan,	250	150	37,500
West of Lake Michigan, and S. of Lake Superior,	400	120	48,000
Lake Superior,	300	100	30,000
Lake Huron,	200	100	20,000

Lake Michigan,	270	50	13,500
Lake Erie,	250	60	15,000
Lake Ontario,	180	40	7,200
River St. Lawrence, and smaller Lakes,	•	•	1,500
	•	•	—

9

Summary.

Area NW. of St. Lawrence river,
 Do. SE. and SW. of do.
 Do. covered with water,

Total Area of St. Lawrence Valley,	•	•	Sq. miles. 505,200
	•	•	—

It is obvious, that the "Middle district" of country described above, being the great connecting portion of the whole, all facilities of transportation through the same, and thence to the principal ports on our Atlantic border, have a paramount claim to attention in the first instance, because, whilst they immediately tend to call into activity the latent riches of the district itself, they also have a proportionate favourable bearing on the trade of the more distant parts, and may in many instances, determine the course such trade is to take in future times.

I HAVE mentioned the great canal works, going briskly forward, in New York: which state is also laudably attentive to her roads. In this state, (Penns.) although we have not escaped some reproach for supineness, in not having bestirred ourselves in canal operations with all the boldness of our neighbours, yet a great deal of useful solid improvement over the State-surface has, at all times, been going forward; and much is accomplished. We possess at this day,

1940 miles complete, of excellent turnpike roads, traversing the State, and having on their surface no angle greater than 5° , even where they cross the highest mountains. This includes as follows:

One stone road of 300 miles, between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh; and part of another between the same cities, in progress, by a different route.

One continued road from Philadelphia to the town of Erie on Lake Erie, passing through

Sunbury, Bellefonte, Philipsburg, Franklin, Meadville; forming in the way, an eligible communication between the lake-country and the navigable waters of the Susquehanna.

Two other roads. from Philadelphia to the New York line at Bradford county and Susquehanna county; one passing through Berwick, the other towards the N. passing through Bethlehem.

Part of a road, from Pittsburg to Erie, passing through Butler, Meadville, Waterford; in progress.

Thus, you will perceive, on reference to a map of Pennsylvania, how the Northern, the N. West, and the Western sections of the State are already well connected with this metropolis, and with each other. These works are always going forward, and turnpike roads increasing. And with respect to water-improvements, we are now entitled, at the least, to boast of two great works, in such satisfactory progress, that one of them, whereby the whole course of the river Schuylkill, 117 miles, will be rendered navigable, is far advanced, and will be completed, in all probability, being contracted for, in less than two years; the other work, which is to connect by canal, 70 miles, the navigable waters of the Susquehanna with the Schuylkill, will, it is expected, be finished

at, or about the same time, say in 1825, or at the farthest in 1826. The two works have a point of union at Reading, whence the Schuylkill canal continues in a N. Western direction to Mount Carbon, and the other strikes off S. Westwardly to the Swatara river, at Middleton, near the Susquehanna.

We hope from these, our Pennsylvania works, very beneficial effects, considered even without reference to others; but should there, in addition, be set on foot, as present indications make probable, an enterprise to unite the Delaware and Chesapeake-waters; and another, by a cut across New Jersey, to connect the Delaware and Rariton; all these, considered in connexion with the Erie and Champlain canals of New York, and a certain canal to the Southward which has lately been completed, called the "Dismal Swamp Canal," will soon form a chain of inland navigation of vast consequence to the country. Yet, as I have heretofore shown, our views are not to be confined within even such a range of enterprise as this.

I will here present you with a little specimen of New York accomptantship, in relation to *new projects*. It displays the kind of ideas that are entertained on the subject, in that quarter; which is my reason for transcribing it, as follows:

The Erie and Champlain canals, when complete, in 1825, will have cost, at the highest estimate, Doll. 7,500 000. Whereof the interest, on Doll. 4,000,000 paying 6 per cent, is . . . Doll. 240,000
Doll. 3,500,000 at 5 per cent, is 175,000
Making, to be provided for, Doll. 415,000

The proceeds of the canal-fund, exclusive of tolls, amounted, in the year 1822, to Doll. 216,902, say only . . . Doll. 215,000

At Rome, 40,000 tons paid freight, in this year; but it is supposed that after 1825, the quantity will be increased from three to six times. Say three times only; *i. e.* 120,000 tons, making for the distance on the Erie canal, 363 miles, at $1\frac{1}{2}$ cts. per ton. 653,400

Which income of Doll. 868,400 will, without any thing from the Champlain canal, provide for the above interest, 415,000

For repairs and expenses, suppose 53,400

— 468,400

Leaving an annual surplus of . . . **Doll. 400,000**

Which it is proposed to apply, as so much interest money on new loans to the amount of seven millions of dollars, for the purpose of *new improvements*.

I may observe also, that in New York there is prosecuting at this moment a Geological and Mineralogical Survey, through the tract between Albany and Lake Erie; for the special purpose of rendering such information as shall be obtained from it, beneficial to the State.

So much for prospects and projects in New York. The Dismal Swamp canal, let me inform you, is situated between Virginia and North Carolina, connecting the Chesapeake and Albemarle Sound, by a cut from Elizabeth river to Pasquotauk. It is in length $22\frac{1}{2}$ miles, 38 feet wide at the surface, 6 feet deep; and is calculated for Sloop-navigation, admitting vessels to pass through the locks with sixty or seventy hogsheads of tobacco, or about three hundred barrels of flour, with masts standing.

To be somewhat more particular on the topic of *further enterprise*, I have to observe, that the public mind is turned towards a thorough inland navigable communication, between the Northern, the Southern, the Western, and the Atlantic waters of the United States; which, provided the country continues to be blessed with peace, will, in all probability, be accomplished before the lapse of a long series of years.

Several plans have been brought forward for a junction of the Mississippi with the great lakes; most of these plans proposing the river Ohio as a medium, and the canal to strike from some point of Lake Erie. Amongst the plans of a different route, one by the Chicago and Illinois rivers, has been suggested, and is represented as being comparatively of very easy execution. The two rivers intermingle their sources, and present one of those remarkable instances of rivers originating in a plain so nearly approaching to the curve of a sphere, as to leave for the discharge of the waters, scarcely a sufficient inclination to determine their course. I ought to have mentioned, that the Chicago is a river discharging into Lake Michigan, near the SW. extremity. There are no intervening mountains to obstruct canal-work, and the distance is short. The rivers themselves, said to be free from rapids and shoals, so as to supply an unimpeded navigation* down to the Mississippi.

In the present state however, of the country, the Ohio route is more interesting, by reason of the density of its population and actual productiveness of the land, than is as yet the Illinois track; but the passage of that river is interrupted, in the dry season of the year, at the rapids below Louisville;† to remedy

* My information concerning the Illinois route, is from Mr. Darby.

† Here dwells honest Byrne.

which, a lock-construction is there requisite. Upon the whole, it appears highly probable that the Ohio and Illinois rivers will eventually both become, by the aid of canals, channels of communication between the Great Lakes and the Western waters. Other improvements being also made, the several divisions of the country will hereafter have, in their commercial intercourse, a choice, both of different markets, for their commodities, and of different routes to the same market; to be availed of, the one or the other, according to the season of the year and other circumstances.

The track between New York and St. Louis, Missouri, I will here note down, by way of enumerating a few local distances, and for the purpose of pointing to another fact.

New York to Albany,	160	Miles.
Canandaigua,	213	373
Buffalo,	92	465
Erie,	90	555
Cleveland,	90	645
Detroit,	110	755
Fort Gratiot,	67	822
Michilimakinac,	190	1012
M. of Chicago river,	280	1292
Head of Illinois,	40	1332
Mouth of do.	400	1732
St. Louis,	30	1762

The other fact alluded to, you have, perhaps, anticipated me in; namely, that the Buffalo and Albany canal once finished, there will be no more wanting than the Chicago canal, for the whole range of country Westward, and S. Westward, comprehending the Mississippi river, and rivers flowing into the Mississippi, and their tributary streams, being laid open, by a navigable passage, to the commercial enterprise of the city of New York and intermediate places. Of which range, the distance to St. Louis, as above sketched, makes but a *small* part. How soon this may be fully realized, I do not know; but in the mean time, we shall have effected something in other quarters.

You will readily call to mind, among the little incidents of the tour we made together in 1808, the perusal of a copy, just then received by a certain gentleman, of Mr. Secretary Gallatin's famous report upon inland navigation and roads. It projected in particular, a line of canals along the Atlantic coast, from Boston harbour to Carolina; which appeared to gather friends desirous for its execution. The navigation proposed, was to be for sea-vessels, and the connexion, to be effected by four canals, as follows:

1. Boston harbour to Rhode Island.
2. Rariton river to the Delaware.
3. Peninsula between the Delaware and Chesapeake.
4. Chesapeake to Albemarle Sound.

Between

Weymouth and Taunton,	26	Miles.
Brunswick and Trenton,	28	do.
Christiana and Elk,	22	do.
Elizabeth river and Pasquotank,	22	do.

At that time however, and for years after, the nation was too much engaged with some other objects, to deliberate with effect upon this undertaking; and since then, when Congress took up the matter, and decided in favour of the work of internal improvement on a general scale, it was arrested, by a negative opinion of the President, touching *constitutional authority* in the Federal government to execute such works.

Whether a greater latitude may hereafter be allowed to *constructive authority*, so as to embrace the point, or whether an amendment to the constitutional instrument may be resorted to, so as to do away the doubt by an *express authority*, is uncertain; but in one of the two ways the difficulty will probably be gotten over; for, that it should exist at all, is by many, whose views are extensive, regretted. They perceive a reasonable propriety in some part of the expected overflowings of the national treasury being applied to an object, than which one of greater public prospective utility could not well be devised.

At the very last session of Congress, a committee reported in favour of surveys being gone into, with a view to the following, as national undertakings. They proposed,

1. The line of canals along the Atlantic coast, as above described.
2. A great road from Washington city to New Orleans.
3. Canals, to connect the waters of the Ohio river above, with those below the rapids at Louisville; Lake Erie with the river Ohio; the tide-waters of the Potomac at Washington, with the same river at Cumberland.
4. Canal-communication between the Susquehanna, and the rivers Seneca and Genessee.
5. Canal-communication between the Tennessee and Savannah rivers; and between the Tennessee, the Alabama and Tombecbee rivers.

But, according to what is above related, all effectual steps in this, so far as regards the general government, must probably be suspended for the present, by the constitutional doubt. In the mean time, you will have seen from what I state, that, the great work is advancing by piecemeal, in different quarters:

incorporated companies, composed of individuals and their particular State governments, are zealous in it, at least in proportion to the views they each entertain of respective local advantages.

On speaking of the turnpike roads in the State of Pennsylvania, I might have observed, that near the sum of seven millions of dollars has been expended in the first formation of them, besides the needful expenditure, from time to time, to keep them in repair.

I have properly characterized above, our works, now in great forwardness, on and between the rivers Schuylkill and Susquehanna; when complete, they will have most beneficial consequences. The city of Philadelphia is beginning to receive coal from some of the mines situate on the Schuylkill.

The Delaware and Chesapeake canal, (one of Mr. Gallatin's four) was undertaken many years ago; but after a while, suspended, from temporary causes: this, it is almost certain, will be resumed forthwith, with provision made for a prompt completion of it; and the intention is, to adapt it to ship-navigation; so that vessels from Philadelphia bound to sea, may then have a choice between the Capes of Delaware, and the Capes of Virginia, to depart from; and of course, inward vessels arriving on the coast, the same choice of Capes to enter by.

The Dismal Swamp Canal, between Virginia and North Carolina, is another of Mr. Gallatin's four; and it is quite probable, as before stated, that a third one of the four will soon be undertaken, viz. the cut across New Jersey; if which should be made a ship-passage, as is likewise probable, then may large vessels navigate *within land*, from the Capes of Virginia quite to Rhode Island, and vice versa; and besides, may proceed up the Hudson river, to within a very few miles of Albany; where, if a short lock-improvement be made, to overcome an impediment yet existing, then may ships come in contact with the Erie, and the Champlain canals, and have the benefit of an inland navigation, from the very point of union at Albany, to the Capes of Virginia, or of Delaware, at pleasure, as also between Albany and Rhode Island. This is no inconsiderable range *within land*, for vessels of burthen, either equipped for sea, or not, as the case may happen and objects require.

Amongst other matters under consideration, for accomplishment by individual means and State government aid, a prominent one is to improve the navigation of the Potomac, by a lock-construction and series of works, between tide-water at Washington, and Cumberland on the same river, and thence to the waters of the Ohio, to form a junction with that river; a distance in all, of perhaps three hundred and fifty miles. The State of Virginia has actually passed a law to subscribe one million of

dollars, or 2-5ths of a stock of $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions to be created for that purpose, as soon as the other 3-5ths or 1,500,000 dollars shall be elsewhere subscribed. That state has, I believe, a standing law, whereby a Board of commissioners are empowered to subscribe, on behalf of the state, 2-5ths toward any works of approved general utility within the State, conditionally that the other 3-5ths are subscribed and partly paid in.

The Maryland legislature has passed resolutions, directing a survey to determine as to the practicability of a canal from Baltimore to the river Potomac, and of another from Baltimore to the Susquehanna near Conawago falls.

In South Carolina, some of the rivers are already connected by valuable canal-works.

In Massachusetts, the Middlesex canal, connecting Boston harbour and the river Merrimack, is a fine substantial work, and highly useful; and, what most probably will become of great general utility, though not as yet productive to the incorporated proprietors, is a work situate behind the town of Boston, now quite or nearly completed, at the expense of near a million; for the purpose of furnishing water power. This is effected by means of two dams, which admit and confine the tide: one of them mak-

ing a chord line, to a basin approaching to the circular form; the other dam, which is perpendicular to the chord, and about one mile in length, being allotted for the erection of mills and factories.

I HAVE now brought forward sundry facts and observations agreeably to intimation; and, with the exception of one topic, comprising all that I had in my mind in relation to the subject before us:

1. I have delineated in the form of a comparative table, the prominent features of American opulence in the year 1822, with reference to the year 1792.
2. I have, for reasons given, assigned as the proximate cause of most of this accumulated wealth of the country, the commercial opportunities thrown in her way by the convulsions of Europe: I say *proximate*, meaning that this cause, or occasion, is not to be considered as alone and unconnected, but to be taken in combination with the previously formed industrious habits of a people, with their mental intelligence, and with a particular aptitude and skill which they possess, in the pursuit of commerce; whereby, the occasion being presented, there was found little tardiness to profit by it, and as little mistake in the

mode; and above all, taken in combination with the circumstance of our country's teeming with productions,—ships and able seamen included in the number,—such as happened at that period to be precisely those things, of which Europe felt the most pressing want. All this understood, I have not hesitated to deduce the present national opulence, as an immediate effect of extraordinary opportunities of foreign commerce, enjoyed during some years; and I have hazarded some conjectures, or at the least, have sketched an outline for conjectures, upon the operation of existing causes for its further advancement.

3. I have endeavoured to place in view, a few of the leading improvements on the face of the country, actually finished or in progress of execution, with others projected; especially as relating to facilities of commercial intercourse, bringing the remote parts of this extensive country into close intimacy, and consequent thereupon, tending most effectually to explore her latent sources of treasure in every direction; by which, to increase the mass as well as the number or variety of her productions, and bring the whole of these into rapid circulation.
4. I have endeavoured, by stating a few collateral circumstances, to convey an idea of the active spirit and intelligent power, with which these im-

provements, and of course the several appropriate industrious pursuits, are carried on and extended, in the road to further, and perhaps accelerated, accumulations of wealth and power.

5. I have endeavoured through the whole, directly or indirectly, to point also to American mind—its original capability and its opportunities of expansion—as being in itself the great spring, or fountain head, of all the rest. The anticipations we are wont to indulge in, have their rise, their origin and support, in what is observable in the state and character of that mind; or the tendency which we believe we discover in it, to support from choice, and render permanent, the essential institutions of the country.

With the use then, of whatever these materials may be found to add to your own previous stock and stores, should you be induced to speculate deeply, and of course with that warmth of interest, which I may well suppose you have not ceased to feel in the destinies of this land of promise, there are few things in the world could afford me a higher gratification than to be favoured with the results of your speculations, general and particular; not any thing perhaps remaining in the world, which could equal towards me the gratification I should have in the opportunity of conferring with you upon them, and some other subjects, *here on the spot.*

But, I have hinted just above, at some reserve in respect to a certain topic. It is a point, I will venture to say, not yielding in importance to any other in my catalogue of premises; and yet, I believe that, without violence to custom in speculations of the nature before us, it might be cast into exclusion; or at the least, might not be allowed to occupy the visible place for consideration, which it certainly merits. I have, it is true, hesitated at bringing it conspicuously forward, knowing that it could not escape having a place in your consideration; but I finally concluded the better way to be, to lay all open, and not wilfully to abstain from any matter-of-fact suggestion or remark, that might, by possibility, aid in awakening your reflections on the subject, or widen the field of view.

There is need of my craving your indulgence for so inmoderate an introduction. Perhaps by this time you perceive that what I allude to, bears relation to the religious and moral character of the nation;—the influence that this may have, according as it shall, or shall not, be established and maintained consistently throughout; the influence, I say, favourable or unfavourable, that this may have, over the stability of this country's present happy institutions? My pen here approaches to the fearful word *Slavery*.

Opinions with us are, I believe you know, at variance, as to the remote effects to be expected from this

evil; though it is nothing more than justice to say, that many of those, if not nearly all, the most interested in this species of property, do unite in acknowledging the thing to be as I here name it. The difficulty in the way of discovering a remedy, you are well enough aware of. There are those amongst us, whose exalted religious and humane feelings prompt them to look upon it as a most direful malady in the body of the state; and they behold, with all the sorrow which an unquestionably ardent love for their country can excite, the extension of it into *new members*. If pressed on the topic, but not otherwise, they go the length of saying, that although there should be a multiplicity of the best effects flowing from wise institutions, virtuous motives, zealous execution, and successful application of talents;—all this together, whilst it still shall constitute no more than a preponderance of *good*, over an inherent mass of *evil* in the land, may not, they apprehend, if the latter be suffered to go on growing more and more into strength, be sufficient to protect the nation, at some period, sooner or later, from a great, and perhaps deadly catastrophe! For my own humble part, I do not undertake to pronounce upon these forebodings. As to the force, or to the extent of such commotions, decay, or disruption, as this growing malady, if it cannot be eradicated, may eventually stir up in the body-politic, I do not allow myself, at this early and elastic stage of our political existence, to form a conjecture. It is one of those unhappy national predicaments,

which, although brought into being by man, through inadvertency or the depravity of a past age, is yet what man's experience and foresight together can by no means compass all the consequences of; and very probably what the mind of man is not competent to construct any connected, feasible, philanthropic plan for the removal of; and little more perhaps is in his power than to cherish a hearty desire, and keep hope alive within his breast, trusting chiefly to some providential discovery, hereafter, of means, which at present do not appear. We have witnessed in this our time, very unexpected and extraordinary events, compared with the very trifling and insignificant beginnings or causes, which, to our perceptions, have brought them ultimately to pass. We have seen the rise and progress of the now numerous and various benevolent associations, such as School, Missionary, Bible-Societies, and the like, which both in this and other countries, are every day spreading their influence; and can it be too much to indulge a hope, that these, or some of these may, by and by, or in the end, aided with a full light of experience, and perhaps, some systematic union in their operations, be endowed with a power which shall happily reach some of the moral evils attendant hitherto on human society, that hitherto we have been rather too much in the habit of supposing there could be no remedy for? The American Colonization Society's establishment on the coast of Africa, taken singly, does not as yet present any very encouraging aspect, but the requi-

site efforts once made, and its infancy properly assisted, it is probable that a healthy state of maturity will succeed; and this institution, perhaps co-operating with others, it is not impossible, may be a destined instrument for incalculable benefits eventually, to the cause of civilization, morality, and religion in the world.

The fruit that is to be expected in due season, from a moral, a religious, and a literary culture of the mind, extended to all subjects, the first two without limitation, the last in degree and circumstance; has quite a foremost place in the contemplations of our eminent characters of this day; and accordingly there is a redoubled attention directed to education, in favour of the generation growing up, as well in the more recently settled parts of the country, as those of older date. In all the States, and especially our cities, provision, more or less, is made for gratuitous instruction. A spectacle, in May last, of the sixth anniversary procession and examination of the "Sunday School Union" in the city of New York, excited strong emotions in those who beheld it. It consisted of two thousand five hundred children, belonging to forty-eight different schools; and the number is said to have since increased: it increases in fact along with the population. In the state of Pennsylvania, education is, so far as legislative provision for the object goes, laid open to *all*. The State is laid out in districts, and public schools are established therein, for the benefit

of all indigent children. Without counting private charity-schools, which in Philadelphia are numerous, there are now in this one district, comprising the city and county of Philadelphia, about five thousand pupils taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, at the charge of the commonwealth. They are distributed, for the greater part, through seminaries erected by the commonwealth on the Lancasterian plan of instruction; the rest at common schools in some of the county-sections of the district.

As a single specimen of the earnestness and philosophical intelligence, as well as practical minuteness, with which, in pursuit of the main object, these elementary matters are handled in this "young country," I might here present you with a constitution and set of rules, drawn up for the government of a "Children's Asylum," a private charity which now makes one of the local embellishments of this city, in the vicinity of the Schuylkill; but the instrument is too long for a transcript, and you will excuse it.

Colleges are increasing in the different States, and are enabled more and more to enlarge their field of instruction, partly by means of private contribution, but especially the means conferred by acts of the respective State Legislatures. If the endowments of most of them are not as yet ample and effective as in two or three instances of the original States, they are however in a fair course for becoming so: not one of

the new States has been received into the Union, but whose constitution contains a provision for schools, academies, colleges, and universities; and great landed investments are mortgaged to the object. There are now more than three thousand under-graduates matriculated at those universities and colleges, authorized to grant academical honours; more than one thousand two hundred students at the medical schools, which amount to fourteen, some of them justly celebrated, even beyond our shores, for the talents of their professors; at Philadelphia, the number of students attendant on the medical lectures last winter, 1822—23, in the university, was four hundred and fifty-five. There are several hundred at the theological seminaries; at least one thousand students of law.

The profound studies, and strictly classical learning connected with the dead languages, are as yet, but very partially introduced; nevertheless it is fair and natural to believe that these also will have their day of celebrity with us, without at all abating the ardour which now prevails for the improvements of the age in natural science, and politics. Doubtless, they are powers that will coalesce in attractive influence, and have votaries in common. The tree, in our soil, retains its vitality throughout, although some of the branches are, as yet, not in so vigorous a state of growth as some others. There is in the American character too much inquisitiveness, and in the American intellect too much capacity, to allow it supposa-

ble that that variety to be enjoyed, and that comprehensiveness of thought to be attained, by partly employing the mental faculties in the cultivation of Greek and Latin literature; in metaphysical as well as in physical and political science;—to allow it, I say, supposable that these studies will not be indulged in to the full.

In favor of education and of general knowledge, I may likewise state, that within the last few years, public libraries and private collections of books within the United States have vastly increased, both in number and magnitude.

With regard to the constant publication and distribution of books, and particularly of pamphlets and papers, which are incessantly circulating information, we find, in a discourse lately delivered* before the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, a passage as follows:

“ The publication of books is so much cheaper in this country than in Great Britain, that nearly all we use are American editions. According to reports from the Custom House made under a resolution of the Senate in 1822, it appears that the importation of books bears an extremely small proportion to the American editions. The imported books are the mere seed. It is estimated that between two and three millions of dollars worth of books are annually

* By C. J. Ingersoll, Esq. in October, 1823.

published in the United States. There have been eight editions, comprising seven thousand five-hundred copies, of D. Stewart's *Philosophy* published here since its appearance in Europe thirty years ago. Five-hundred thousand dollars, was the capital invested in one edition of Rees' *Cyclopaedia*. Of a lighter kind of reading, nearly two-hundred thousand copies of the *Waverley* novels, comprising five-huudred thousand volumes, have issued from the American press in the last nine years. Four thousand copies of a late American Novel were disposed of immediately on its publication. Five hundred dollars was paid by an enterprising bookseller for a single copy of one of these novels, without any copy-right, merely by prompt re-publication to gratify the eagerness to read it. Among the curiosities of American literature, I must mention the itenerant book-trade. There are, I understand, more than two hundred wagons which travel through the United States, loaden with books for sale. Many biographical accounts of distinguished Americans are thus distributed. Fifty thousand copies of Mr. Weemys' "Life of Washington" have been published, and mostly circulated in this way thoghout the interior. I might add to these instances, but it is unnecessary. Education, the sciences, the learned professions, the church, politics, together with ephemeral and fanciful productions, maintain the press in respectable activity.

"The modern manuals of literature and science, Magazines, Journals, and Reviews, abound in the

United States, although they have to cope with a larger field of News-papers than elsewhere. The North American Review, of which about four thousand copies are circulated, is not surpassed in knowledge or learning, is not equalled in liberal and judicious criticism, by its great British models, the Edinburgh and Quarterly Reviews, of which about four thousand copies are also published in the United States. Written in a pure old English style, and, for the most part, a fine American spirit, the North American Review superintends with ability the literature and science of America.

“ Not less than one thousand News-papers, some of them with several thousand subscribers, are circulated in this country ; the daily fare of nearly every meal, in almost every family ; so cheap and common, that, like air and water, its uses are undervalued. But a free press is the great distinction of this age and country, and as indispensable as those elements to the welfare of all free countries. Abundant and emulous accounts of remarkable occurrences concentrate and diffuse information, stimulate inquiry, dispel prejudices and multiply enjoyments. Copious advertisements quicken commerce ; rapid and pervading publicity is a cheap police. An American would forego the charms of France or Italy for the luxury of a large News-paper, which makes every post an epoch, and provides the barrenest corner of existence with an universal succedaneum. Duly to appreciate the pleasures of it,

like health and liberty, we must undergo the temporary privation. Nor is our experience of the licentiousness of the press, too dear a price to pay for its freedom."

We have, too our popular prelections on a variety of subjects; and they are likely to be still more abundant. As many of the courses are conducted by gentlemen of abilities, there can be no doubt of much useful knowledge, as well as pleasure, being derived to the public, from this fashionable resort for instruction.

Amongst associations, next after those for the special promotion of religion and morality, the foremost rank in promising usefulness must be assigned to our agricultural societies: they are extending, and are so connected, that a well organized correspondence is carried on, both one with another in different parts of the country, and with societies and individuals abroad. They give occasion to fairs, which now are held in sundry places, for the exhibition and sale of the best breeds of neat cattle, sheep, and horses, implements of husbandry, seeds, and various domestic manufactures; and premiums are usually, at these periods of meeting and shew, awarded.

Associations, besides, in various departments of pursuit, in every town and district, are increasing in number; all tending to encourage and advance, one

useful art or another, or promoting discoveries as applicable to the existing and growing occasions of the country; and in general pursuing the twofold object, of collecting and scattering *knowledge*.

“Knowledge is power,” says the text of the day. It heads a discourse to at least one of our literary societies, in the South. Together with power, let us devoutly trust, and assure ourselves that, taken in a genuine sense, both the pursuit, and the acquisition will, nay must, be *happiness*, seeing that, in relation to our national career, it may be said, the knowledge we aspire after is, how to curb and finally to expel the *evil*, which has been unguardedly suffered to gain a footing in this our world; and how best to cherish and promote the growth of *good*,—the good which, notwithstanding, we have providentially been permitted thus far to become possessed of, in no parsimonious degree; not physical alone, but, be it said with due acknowledgments, moral also.

And, reverting for a moment to public schools and primary instruction,—I would observe, that our comptrollers of these schools, and especially I speak of this one of the Pennsylvania districts, are of that description of persons who, taking a comprehensive survey of the subject, feel a conviction that ignorance, or obscurity of intellect prevailing among any of the orders of a community, not excepting the very lowest, is the great strength and stay of vice and depravity,

liberal information a necessary ground-work for incentives to virtue; and believe that, of all the preservative measures which society may adopt against the spread of vice, and in favour of the security and durability of the social establishments, no one can be so efficacious as that of *universal education* to a certain extent; they believe that in general, the several duties will be best performed, where best understood; where the understanding is most enlightened upon the true nature and tendency of them. Accordingly, actuated by this principle, their endeavours are not spared to induce parents and guardians of poor children, in all cases, to cause the proffered benefit to be availed of: and a course of instruction in useful elementary learning, with observances pointing directly to a future moral conduct, is ready to be imparted gratis, to every indigent child, of both sexes, *without distinction of colour.*

A fact, which I feel more than an ordinary degree of satisfaction in here taking notice of is, that in the city of Philadelphia, there has been instituted, by a coloured man of abilities, a society called "The African Literary Society," whose exercises consist in essay-writing and debating, and the Society is composed of thirty or forty members. They do not, it is true as yet, publish their transactions; nor do they, I am so informed, admit strangers to their debates. The name of the person alluded to, is Russell Parrott; and he is said to be preparing for the gospel ministry.*

*He is since dead.

You have now the subject fully and clearly before you; that is to say, *fully* as the same was within my own comprehension, and *clearly* as my *mediocre* qualifications have enabled me to spread it for your contemplation.

There is no danger of your mistaking some passages of what is written, for attempts at disquisition in the science of political economy. The occasion called not for it, had even my pen been qualified. With the exception of *one* evil, which indeed must be acknowledged to be burthensome, and to merit the most serious and persevering thoughts towards a discovery of proper means to counteract its tendencies, the circumstances of this country are happily such as not yet to call for the absolute determination of the seemingly intricate points which in some other countries have, of late years, occupied the pens of so many eminent writers on that science, and still occupy them most laudably. The modes of *producing* wealth in the nation, as things are at present here constituted, it would seem, are pretty thoroughly under-

stood, and the *distribution* also has the appearance of going on, pretty nearly as might be wished. I mean by this, no more than to observe, that in the actual situation of the country, wealth does, by a natural and easy circulation, cheer and invigorate the system through all its ramifications of industry. It flows, as it were by a natural impulse, along and through the various channels thereof, apparently without obstruction or irregularity that hath need of any artificial interference. Nevertheless, be it remembered, that *now* is the nation's happy adolescence; and, although at present, so singularly happy as to have her tide of prosperity *distributed* with pure equality, and seemingly without an exertion; yet time must necessarily bring its changes, and one-day the powerful competition alone of a vast population, may, without other causes, possibly require all the ingenuity and energy of the statesman; all the philanthropy and disinterestedness of the patriot, with the aid, more and more, of positive institutions or enactments, to maintain and perpetuate so even a *balance* as that which now prevails, or the same clear and open avenues to wealth, and the happiness that wealth confers, throughout the community. And an unremitting study, therefore, of the principles of *political economy*, it is evidently of very high importance to us, should be followed up, and this noble science be examined and sifted to the very bottom. An accurate investigation into the principles of it, as they are to be traced and tested by continual observation

upon the circumstances of other nations, may furnish the most valuable conclusions, and these be to us, if we sedulously store them up, a real depot of wisdom, against the day that shall call for its salutary exercise.

What I have attempted is, too, for the best of reasons, still more remote from any attempt at analysis of *government*, or discussion of the particular merits, the particular defects, or excellencies of either of the three branches of our national administration, or their relationship one to another and to the whole. Disquisitions on these high points, and suggestions of modes for amending, improving, qualifying, and best adapting to a permanent end, must come from other quarters. Content am I with being one in the multitude of recipients and no more, for such portion of this kind of knowledge as opportunities happen to afford, coming, in the shape of judicious remarks, from the statesman the professional character or the man of genius. In the review I have taken, my business has rather been with the physical, moral, and intellectual capabilities of this great country, and with our national institutions taken in the aggregate; assuming for truth, the general excellence of the latter, in virtue of the experience had, down to the present day, of their effects; also the probable stability of the same as to essential outline and feature, in virtue of a matter-of-fact or two, which, relative to that topic, I have stated. And, in thus treating the great sub-

ject, I have exerted my *puisné* strength in attempting to raise and cast aside a *corner* of the veil, which would seem as shrouding a **MAGNIFICENT FUTURE.**

If then, my willing labours, in collecting and introducing a few plain facts, and the plainest inferences I could draw from them, subject to correction and especially to extension, do but succeed in exciting those to whom the talent is given, to display, at proper time and occasion, a perspective more distinct of scenes *behind the veil*; or, if these humble labours, though mere pioneer-duty, should yet be found to have sufficiently laid open and cleared a path for some respectable force to occupy the ground, and support the cause of truth and wisdom, with efficacy, at any of the points that may require it;—they will have fulfilled the appointed part, and will have their reward. And here, it might perhaps be highly proper that I should conclude, but a few additional thoughts are presenting themselves, and some others may yet rise up; with which, counting on your acquiescence, and time and occasion favouring me, I will still continue the subject; and, though it be in a desultory way, carry it on somewhat farther; stating now and then a fact or two, amending or explaining where I may, for the sake of accuracy, or of not being misunderstood. To enlarge, however, upon any topic for the mere sake of enlarging, will, assuredly, not be my aim.

Two or three years ago, it was asserted, that the people of St. Louis would, at an early day, have a commerce with Mexico for its silver, with the Indians of the Stony Mountains for their peltry, and with China and the East Indies for the production of those countries.

The prediction was received at the moment as incredible; but it was so received and treated, by those not thoroughly familiar with the enterprising spirit of our back-country citizens.

Already, it has been in some degree, or so far as relates to the two branches of the three spoken of, fulfilled. An active trade of exchange now subsists between the people of the Missouri, and various tribes of Indians, quite to the Stony Mountains, otherwise named Chippewan Mountains; and in the course of last year, 1822, several expeditions of greater or less amount, we are informed, were fitted out, and passed to and from New Mexico. What think you of a train of loaden wagons driven through the

State of Missouri, direct to the City of Santa Fé? This, it is reported, actually took place,* and, it is added, to the no small wonder of the Spaniards. With regard to East India and China commerce in that direction, it may in time, come also into existence; but as yet, the impediments are not sufficiently known or estimated, to render it supposable they can very soon, or easily be surmounted; and besides, as a direct trade with the "East," must in that quarter become every day an object of less value comparatively, by means of the improving facilities of intercourse through our country, to and from this border, so the period for that direct trade taking place, may yet perhaps be distant, and depend much on the previous settlement of a part of our regions towards the Pacific. In the mean time, we confidently trust, that no inconsiderable quantities both of the silver and the furs spoken of, will successively find their way to us, and all the commodities desired in return, including those of the "East," be despatched by us from hence, and be conveniently transported to their respective places of consumption, however great the distance. No

* Since the insertion of this exploit from the then report of it, a different account states, not a train of loaden wagons, but a single one. It adds however, that the wagon itself sold profitably at Santa Fé, and that a more considerable expedition of the kind, was preparing. Of the results in continuation, I am not prepared to speak. There will soon be published in England, a narrative of an exploratory expedition to the North West under authority, by Major Long. I recommend a perusal of it.

doubt, our fur trade to China, may, and will, be much strengthened and enlarged, by means of a settlement at, or towards the mouth of Columbia river, when the proper time shall arrive. At the present moment, the Russians appear to have raised up claims a little adverse, along the North West coast, but these, I presume, will vanish.

Forts will probably be erected up the Missouri, as high as the Yellow Stone river, as soon as the Indians will permit, and the fur trade be prosecuted largely. I cannot cloak the fact, that there exists but too much danger, our people will not content themselves with a fair and an honourable *exchange* of commodities with the Indians. Cupidity and violence are quite likely to despoil these poor aborigines, (remnants of a noble race of men) to the uttermost of their only means of subsistence, which is the produce of the chase, and that too so prematurely, as not to allow time for a sufficient attempt to be made, to bring them forward to a state of civilization, and give them, by way of some indemnity, another mode to exist by, in the cultivation of the earth. In short, "hunting and trapping" expeditions, are actually planning by companies of individuals in Missouri, and are, it is said, contemplated to extend over the whole range of country. This will be resisted by the Indians, at first by private and by open attacks, with some loss of life; war will then be the consequence; and finally, extermination! unless, by possibility, such

restrictions, and provisions as the humanity and wisdom of our government may interpose and make, shall prove effectual, in preserving the few beings that remain. There is an annual appropriation made by Congress, for the civilization of the Indians; but it must be said, the amount is not adequate. Small as it is, whether or not it is applied with all the effect it might be, I cannot say.*

I here present you with a water-route, from St. Louis to the Pacific, by way of the Missouri, and Columbia rivers. Besides the main interruption of the dividing mountain, there are some portages, from falls and rapids, which will, one day or another, possibly at no vast distance from the present, undergo a change.

* I am now enabled to state, that the further, or second, Wagon-expedition spoken of, will consist of several wagons with an investment of merchandise to a considerable amount. How many persons will be interested, it is not yet possible to say, but about one hundred are to attend the expedition, well provided with arms, including a field-piece. The town of Franklin, where the preparations are making, is situate one hundred and seventy-six miles West of St. Louis, and the distance to travel, from thence to Santa Fé, is about one thousand miles, all nearly Indian country. The wagons, it is calculated, will be on the road from seventy to eighty days. If any of the party prefer to leave them by the way, and proceed on, their rate of travelling will, I presume, be much quicker.

St. Louis to St. Charles,	.	.	21	miles.
Charette Village,	.	.	47	68
Gasconade,	.	.	32	100
Osage river,	.	.	33	133
Lead mine,	.	.	20	153
Maniton creek,	.	.	8	161
Saline river,	.	.	11	172
Maniton river,	.	.	9	181
G. Woman's river,	.	.	8	189
Moine river,	.	.	7	196
Two Charlton river,	.	.	24	220
Old Fort Orleans,	.	.	15	235
Grand river,	.	.	4	239
Coal Bank;	.	.	85	324
Blue water river,	.	.	9	333
Kansas river,	.	.	8	341
Little Platte river,	.	.	9	350
Nodaway river,	.	.	100	450
Wolf river,	.	.	14	464
Big Nemaha,	.	.	15	479
Nashtabutome river,	.	.	25	504
Little Nemaha,	.	.	8	512
Platte river,	.	.	82	594
Bluff, NE. side,	.	.	25	619
Three miles of Maha Vil-				
lage,	.	.	209	828
Big Sioux river,	.	.	17	845
Copperas Bluffs,	.	.	26	871
James river,	.	.	70	941
Cataract Bluff,	.	.	10	951
Ancient Fortification,	.	.	13	964

Quicourt, . . .	Miles	22	986
Poncar river and Village, .	10	996	
White river, . . .	122	1118	
Three miles of Sciox pass,	22	1140	
Enter great Bend, . . .	20	1160	
Upper point of same, . . .	30	1190	
Teton river, . . .	60	1250	
Cayenne river, . . .	45	1295	
Shawanee river, . . .	87	1382	
Waterhoe river, . . .	25	1407	
Ricaree Village, . . .	4	1411	
Cannon Ball river, . . .	72	1483	
*Fort Madan, . . .	100	1583	
Knife river, . . .	6	1589	
Miry river, . . .	25	1614	
Little Missouri, . . .	57	1671	
Approach of the Saskasawa			
river and Missouri, . . .	53	1724	
Yellow Stone river, . . .	120	1844	
Martha river, . . .	60	1904	
Porcupine river, . . .	60	1964	
Little Dry river, . . .	54	2018	
Milk river, . . .	45	2063	
Big river, . . .	25	2088	
Bratton's river, . . .	98	2186	
Muscleshell river, . . .	57	2243	
Judith river, . . .	169	2412	

* Here the exploring party of Clarke and Lewis wintered in 1803.—1804.

Slaughter river,	.	Miles 14	2426
Natural Stone Wall,	.	26	2452
Maria river,	.	41	2493
Snow river,	.	18	2511
Shields river,	.	28	2539
Portage river,	.	7	2546
Great Falls,	.	5	2551
Head of Falls,	.	13	2564
Enter the Chippewan mountains,	.	30	2594
Heads of the Missouri and Colum-			
bia rivers,	.	.	Land.
Mouth of Columbia,	.	964	3558 Water.
<hr/>			
Length of the Missouri, with its windings			
and some short portages, as			
above,	.	Miles 2594	
Length, by Clarke's river, a branch of Co-			
lumbia, to the Mouth of Colum-			
bia, as above,	.	964	
Across the dividing-ridge to the Head			
waters of the Clarke's branch			
of Columbia, as above,	.	70	
<hr/>			
Total distance from St. Louis to the Pa-			
cific, by Clarke's branch,	.	3628	Miles.
<hr/>			

I TAKE pleasure in still considering you as a *traveller*, and in the thoughts consequently, of your being, on your return to us, a full partaker in the many conveniences and comforts, which our late advancement in the art of travelling, actually confers. The number of good roads we now have, form of course one of the essentials; but, if these are in favour particularly of celerity and despatch, you will nevertheless, well understand, that what I would commend to you, has no reference to *expedition* without *prudence*, for that is neither a convenience nor a comfort. The carriage-racing feats between city and city, are likely to be suppressed, in virtue of a few admonitory assessments made upon some of our drivers and proprietors; for, to say the truth, these excesses have occurred much too often, and to such a degree, that in more instances than one lately, the unfortunate passenger has had a worse fate than to *hold the lantern*; a post which, on a certain occasion formerly, you will recollect a friend of yours was obliged to fill, and a friend of mine a post correspondent to it.

By the things you witness, as to *Steam Boats*, where you are, you will correctly enough judge of what the introduction of them has done for us. They soon proved to be eminently adapted to the waters of this country, both coast and interior, but especially the latter; and we have in no sort delayed to profit by the circumstance. They are very numerous: they ply in numbers and with pointed regularity, both the bold shore and the obstructed stream; and are now generally considered with us, as a necessary part of every line of conveyance, where the distance between places is partly by water. It is indeed surprising, when we cast our thoughts back for a moment, to former times, to observe how much this steam-navigation has multiplied the number, and enlarged the circumferences of our social circles, not to speak of what is strictly commercial in the intercourse.

You have travelled Southwardly here, and what is more, have travelled over some of the charming climes of Europe; yet I cannot refrain from thinking that, on this side of the Atlantic, we have still got some wonders in reserve for you, the survey of which may contribute to your gratification; and I feel myself induced to transcribe on this paper, a certain outline, as a memorandum for your tablet, to be referred to, whenever you shall so please, after your return to this land. It is the outline of an agreeable tour, in a direction contrary to those you formerly made. I derive it from the gentleman

whose authority I have more than once quoted. It would be misplaced in me, to enter into descriptions of scenery to you, and especially of that which I have myself not seen; but the tour in question is represented as comprising bodies of scenery so varied, yet so continuously delightful, that any previous imagination of it will be surpassed by the reality. In other respects too than scenery, the localities of this tour must have powers to interest you highly. Six or seven weeks, or less, may suffice for a convenient survey of the most remarkable objects comprehended in it. The shores of the St. Lawrence river, from Kingston to Quebec, distance three hundred and eighty miles, exhibit, it is said, such combinations of the "sublime and beautiful," and so diversified a spectacle at almost every point of view, by the different ways in which the two are blended together and contrasted, that nothing at all equal, or approaching to the same, for impressiveness upon a traveller for the first time, is to be found in any other part of North America; and particularly so, as along this tract of country, whatever there is that is grand or beautiful in nature, must be viewed in connexion with the many and great improvements made, in point of cultivation and increase of the land's produce, which have, within a very few years, started forward as by magic:—But, it behoves me to stop, and to beseech your pardon for any mention, I may superfluously have made, both here and elsewhere, of matters which may have become familiar to you,

from other sources. I was aware of all I am risking, before I began, so, be pleased, in favour of the motive that governs through the whole, if of nothing else, to vouchsafe a good reception to the following

PLAN OF A TOUR.

Philadelphia to New York; thence to Albany.

Thence, along the Mohawk and Seneca rivers. Taking your survey of the grand canal, at Canandaigua to Buffalo. } its most remarkable points.

Along Lake Erie, by steam boat, to Detroit.

Return to Buffalo: and the Niagara Strait, if passed before, will again be passed, and the scene be contemplated with renewed pleasure.

Lewistown or Queenstown, by Steam Boat.

Along Lake Ontario, to Sackets Harbour.

Sackets Harbour and Kingston, to Quebec, distance three hundred and eighty miles.

Return, by Richelieu river, Lake Champlain, and the Hudson, to Albany, and New York, and Philadelphia.

THE DISTANCES ARE,

Philadelphia to New York,	90	Miles.
Albany,	160	250
Utica,	101	351
Auburn,	74	425
Geneva,	22	447
Canandaigua,	16	463
Genessee river,	26	489
Batavia,	26	515
Buffalo,	40	555
Dunkirk,	45	600
Erie,	45	645
Cleveland,	90	735
Sandusky Bay,	50	785
Bass Island,	16	801
M. of Detroit river,	23	824
Malden, now Amherst,	5	829
Detroit City,	16	845
Return to Buffalo,	290	1135
Falls of Niagara,	21	1156
Queenston, C. Lewistown, U. S.	7	1163
Fort Niagara, and Fort George, and enter Lake Ontario,	7	1170
Genessee river,	74	1244
Great Sodus Bay,	35	1279
Oswego river,	28	1307
Sackets Harbour,	40	1347

		Miles.	
Cape Vincent, enter the			
St. Lawrence river,	20	1367	
Brockville C. Morrisville			
U. S.	50	1417	
Ogdensburg, U. S. Pres-			
cott, C.	12	1429	
Great Gallop Islands, .	5	1434	
Lower end of same, .	9	1443	
Hamilton, U. S. . . .	10	1453	
Lat. 45° St. Regis, U. S. Corn-			
wall, C.	35	1488	
Montreal,	60	1548	
Head of } Three Rivers,	105	1653	
tide Wr. } Return to Montreal,	165	1883	
	Plattsburg,	73	1956
	Albany,	178	2134
	New York and Phila-		
	delphia,	250 . . .	2384

YOUR old horticultural acquaintance and *protégé*, A. B. is still at and doing, I hope, pretty well. He may, with great truth, be said to "deserve well" of the country, which he hath made to be irrevocably "his." He has contributed both to improve and populate it. The art he professes was, prior to his time, little attended to, and as little understood, in that neighbourhood. Now, the reverse is the case. He found apt pupils. But the evil of it, for poor B. has been, that he could not, from confined circumstances, render his talents and industry profitable to himself and family, in proportion to the benefits they have conferred upon others. However, I believe that he is gradually getting forward, though now in the midst of a competition, which his knowledge and instruction have brought into existence.

I omit describing changes, and degrees of change, in the aspect of our *good* city of Philadelphia, since you left it; willing rather to leave some of our novelties untouched, to have the power of striking you, with what force they may, at your return. One thing

however in point, I am loth to postpone; that, as religious societies are every day increasing in magnitude, or the number of their practical members, through all or most parts of the country; and as those of this city happily partake of the general augmentation; so this has occasioned a call for new places of worship; and in virtue thereof, Philadelphia has got some handsome churches added to those you knew of, and others are building. I may likewise here notice our Academy of Fine Arts, not as to the edifice, but the institution, which has become more comprehensive. The "Philadelphia Museum" also, formerly Peale's, which has considerably enlarged its collection, and where a recreative plan of lecturing on appropriate topics is adopted.

The elegant improvements on the river Schuylkill, near Philadelphia, can hardly fail to surprise you, and very agreeably, by that elegance alone, apart from the immense present and prospective utility of them. There is combined, a set of water-works, on a large scale; and these, for the use of the city, have been in motion since July last, (1822.) The river is dammed across at twelve hundred feet width, and its whole contents of water brought under control, amounting by computation, at the common state of the stream, to four hundred and twenty millions of gallons every twenty-four hours. These works, consequently, include a water-power, that may be applied to manufacturing purposes, almost without limit-

ation, besides supplying the city to any extent requisite: for the present, they are adapted to the movement of eight wheels, capable together, of raising ten millions gallons of water into the basins every twenty-four hours, but as yet, only two (or three) of these wheels are in motion, they giving a sufficient supply.

I have touched above, upon the spread of religious societies. To give a general idea as to the effects that are taking place, from the present active condition of religion with us, I state, that according to computation, there are not less than eight thousand places of worship; an equal, or greater number of ecclesiastics or preachers, in the United States; besides twelve theological seminaries, and many religious houses, containing, the former about five hundred, the latter, three hundred votaries; all which must, with us, you well know, be self-created, and depend for support upon voluntary contributions.

The American Church of England, has already expanded into 10 Bishoprics,
with 350 Clergymen,
and about 700 Churches.

The Roman Catholic Church,

into A metropolitan See.
with 10 Bishoprics,
and 160 Clergymen,
and about 100 Churches.

and one very remarkable feature in the Roman Catholic establishment in this country, is, the present flourishing condition, and great influence of the celebrated society of *the Jesuits*.

In the New England States, there are upwards of seven hundred Congregational Churches, with about seven hundred clergymen.

The United States Presbyterian, additionally to the Congregationalists, comprises
 more than 1400 Churches,
 about 900 Ministers,
 and 135 Licentiates,
 and 147 Candidates.

The Methodist Church,
 contains 3 Diocesses,
 with 1100 Itinerant clergy,
 and 3000 Stationary ministers,
 they reckon 12 Conferences,
 more than 2500 Places of worship.

The Baptist Church, is stated as comprising two thousand three hundred places of worship, and probably a greater number of ministers. Of this church there are three theological seminaries.

The Universalists, in the United States,
 have 120 Preachers,

and 200 Separate societies,
and issue 8 Periodical publications.

The Lutheran Church,
The Dutch Reformed,
The Associate Reformed,
The Moravian,
The Friends, } and many others,

who have their several seminaries of education, and places of worship, with numerous clergy and preachers.

I now give you the amount of the United States exports, for the twelve months ending on the 30th Sept. 1822; ascertained by official report from the treasury department; thus,

Domestic,	Doll. 49,874,079.
Foreign articles re-shipped, .	22,286,202.
<hr/> Total Exports,	Doll. 72,160,281. <hr/>

which forms a considerable advance, on the exports of the year preceding, inserted in the table. It is moreover ascertained, that the domestic portion thereof, is much undervalued in these returns, both with regard to this year, and all antecedent years. As we

have no export duties, so a strict evaluation of every item, entered outwardly at the custom-house, has not always been observed; and a variety of articles are also constantly going out of the country, without reaching the custom-house record at all, but with all the effect of an export, which is, by bringing wealth back into it. This matter is likely now to be more minutely attended to, for the sake of possessing ourselves of full, and circumstantial information, on a subject that has important bearings.

Much error has heretofore prevailed, both in this and other countries, with regard to the *balance-of-trade doctrine*, or at least, in the application of it to particular cases. In fact, the error I allude to, has arisen, as I believe, out of *mis-statement*. No country can, for many successive years, import to a greater amount of commodities, than she has the means of paying, and actually does pay for, in some shape or other, by her exports. And very often has it happened, that, what has been termed, and recorded as a balance of trade against the nation, from a seeming excess of imports over exports, has in truth, been so much *profit*, made by the nation, on those exports.

I WILL endeavour to improve a little, upon the description above, of our grand water-works; and give you, in a small compass, their present state. The place is named

FAIR MOUNT.

SUPPLY.

- 3 Wheels in motion, 15, 16, 16, feet diameter.
- The Shafts, of iron, weight five tons each,
 connected with
- 3 double Forcing pumps,
 connected with
- 3 iron Mains, sixteen inches diameter, two
 hundred and eighty-six feet long,
 discharging into
- 2 Reservoirs, contents seven millions gallons.

Height of reservoirs,
102 feet above Schuylkill low-water at Fair
Mount;
56 feet above Philadelphia, the highest
ground.

Quantity of water every twenty-four hours,
raised by these three wheels in motion, 4 millions.

Quantity may be raised, by the
five wheels in reserve, . . 6 do.

Total, gallons. 10 do.

DISTRIBUTION.

1 large iron distributing Main, from Fair Mount to the intersection of Broad Street and Chestnut Street, viz.

2661 feet, of 22 inches diameter, running from Fair Mount to Callowhill and Broad Streets.

6909 feet, of 20 inches diameter, running along Broad Street North, to Chestnut Street.

9570 feet of Main.

Pipes from this Main, are laid along Chestnut Street, through to Water Street, Delaware, also along other streets in part, and are to be laid throughout. Diameter from six to eight inches.

The old wooden pipes measured in length, through the streets of the city, about thirty-two miles. These are, from time to time, as they decay, to be replaced with iron ones, which will be extended likewise into the Liberties, N. and S.

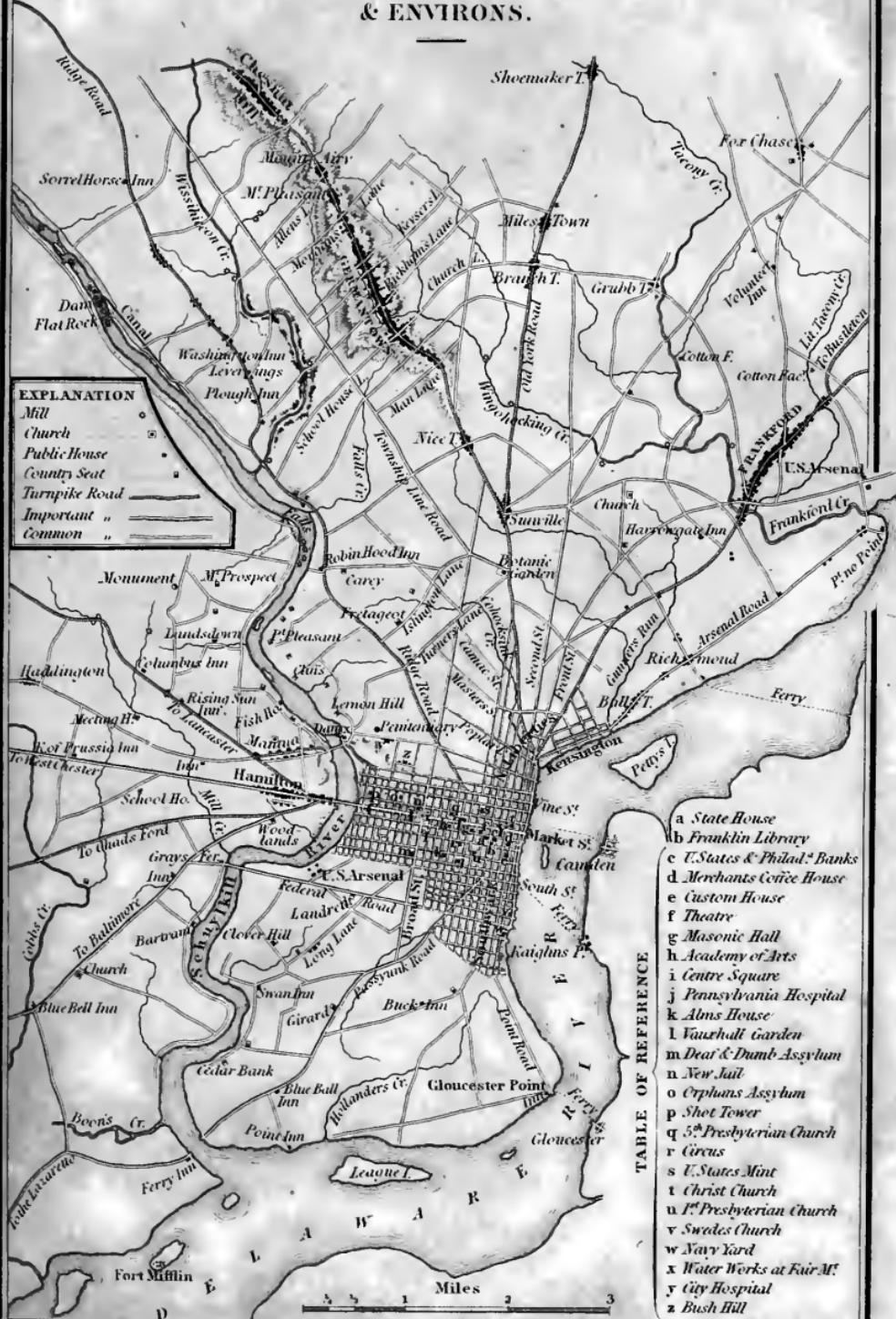
Total cost of these works, at their present extent of machinery and pipes, Doll. 426,330

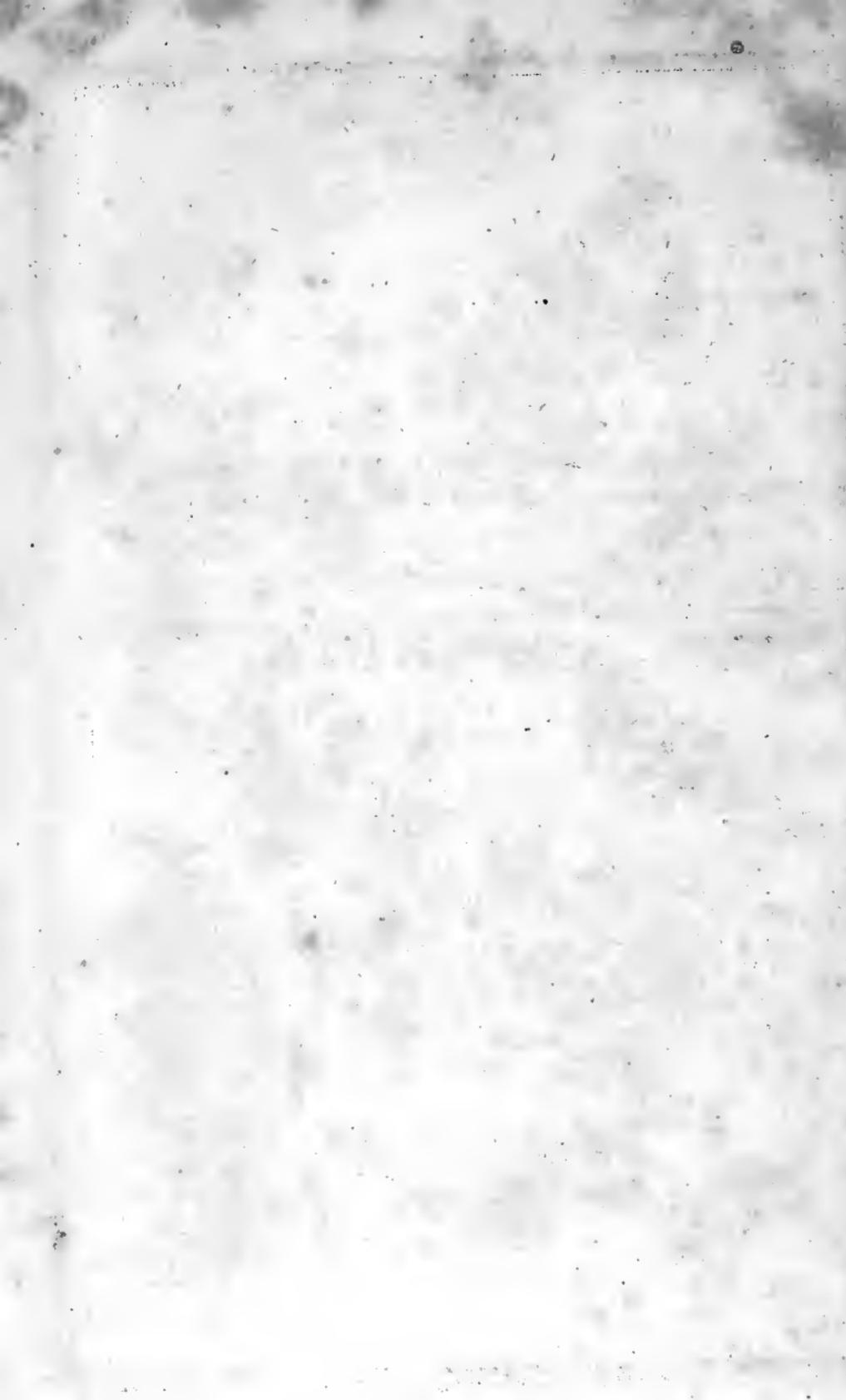
The site of them, is designated on a small map, here affixed, of the city of Philadelphia and environs. And, in order to convey a better impression of the spot, and some of its interesting objects, than my bare mention of them may perhaps do, I have also here annexed, an engraved view of Fair Mount.

FOR some of my Statistical representations, I am indebted to the elaborate work of Doctor Adam Seybert.

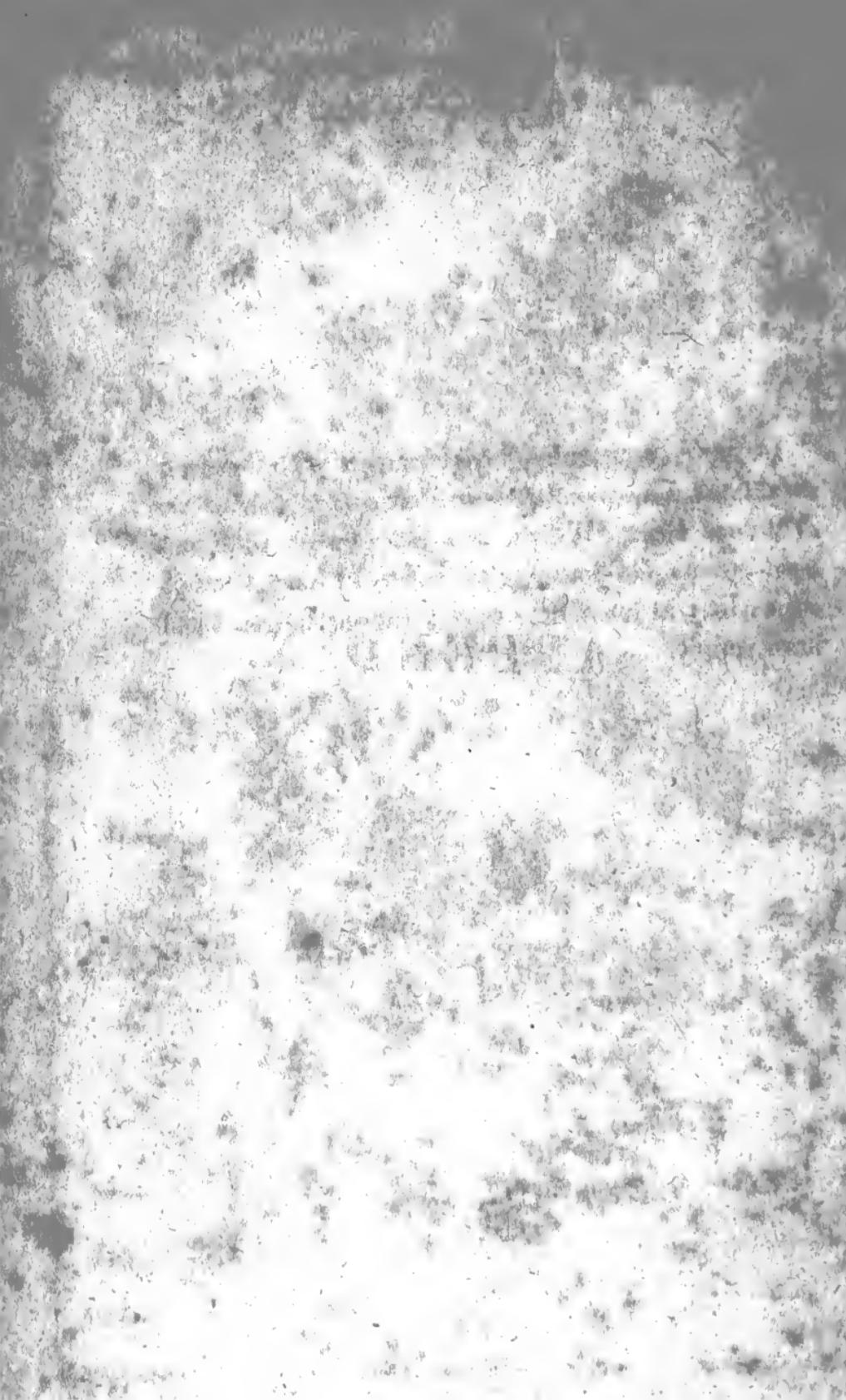
I could wish that gentleman were induced to give the public a second or supplementary edition. There is, in the occurrences of the few years which have already elapsed, together with what is now occurring, and very soon will occur, matter sufficient to form an interesting, and very useful addition to the work, as published in 1818.

PHILADELPHIA & ENVIRONS.





APPENDIX.



IN the "comparative" view, given with these observations, I have omitted the *State and Course of our National Debt*. Which, as it may throw additional light upon some points of the subject I have attempted, or may at least be a useful memorandum, I will here supply.

DEBT OF THE UNITED STATES.

In the year 1792. The amount of the public debt on the first of January this year, was Doll. 77,227,924

In eleven years thenceforward, there was made but a small reduction, that is to say; in this period a large and extraordinary expenditure was called forth in consolidating the nation's affairs, under the recently adopted Federal constitution, in various extensive embassies, and measures to reconcile differences with nations abroad, in necessary measures of protection at home, and especially, in the sudden creation of a respectable Naval force and provision for its extension. All which operated to prevent, during the period in question, that reduction of the public debt, which the prosperous state of the nation's commerce would otherwise have been the means of effecting. The actual reduction, was Doll. 173,238

In . . . 1803. The amount of the public debt on the first of January, this year, was Doll. 77,054,686

In this year, consequent on a purchase, made from France, of the Louisiana Territory and appendages, the debt was increased, 9,372,434

In . . . 1804. The amount on the first of January, 1804, was 41,215,139

In eight years from this, it was reduced 86,427,120

In . . 1812. The amount on the first of January, 1812, was 45,211,981

In three years, embracing a war-period with Great Britain, the debt was increased, 77,843,045

In . . 1815. The amount of the public debt, on the first of January, this year, was 123,055,026*

In eight years from this, a reduction was made, of 39,277,595

In . . 1823. The amount of the public debt, on the first of January, 1823, all funded, was 83,777,431

Which eighty-three millions seven hundred and seventy-seven thousand four hundred and thirty-one dollars, is however, exclusive of seven millions of five per cent stock issued in 1816, in payment for seventy thousand Bank of United States shares, which government hold in their possession. I do not consider this seven millions as a debt, because the Bank-shares held, might be sold and converted into payment. Of this debt of eighty-three millions seven hundred and seventy-seven thousand four hundred and thirty-one dollars, the sum of seventeen millions one hundred and eighty-nine thousand eight hundred and fifty-two dollars, is all that was contracted prior to the year 1812, and includes thirteen millions of three per cent stock.

* Composed of Doll. 99,835,903 Funded debt and temporary loans.
23,219,123 Floating Treasury notes, funded in course of the year 1815.

Doll. 123,055,026

It appears, therefore, that during the first eleven years here specified, not much progress was made in *liquidation*. Revenue, which was rapidly flowing into the country, went, the public part of it, to consolidate the Federal Government, the private portion, to increase individual capital and promote successively new enterprise. In the twelfth year, 1803, by a purchase of Louisiana, made from France, for fifteen millions of dollars, the public debt was actually increased about nine and a half millions, instead of being reduced five and a half, as it otherwise would have been that year. And, in the eight following years of 1804 to 1811 inclusive, a reduction took place of forty-one millions out of eighty-six, averaging better than five millions per annum; which was effected, notwithstanding that more than half of this period was remarkable, on account of very heavy restrictions laid by government, in different shapes, upon our trade and external concerns; thereby reducing the foreign commerce of the country to a mere shadow of what it was,— to a mere *bagatelle*, compared with the importance it had ac-

quired prior to the end of 1807. The three years which preceded 1815, included a war-period, and increased the debt, as is above stated, to one hundred and twenty-three millions of dollars; whereof, in eight years, ending 31st Deceniber, 1822, the sum of thirty-nine millions two hundred and seventy-seven thousand five hundred and ninety-five dollars, appears to have been redeemed. It brings the debt, at that date, down to eighty-three millions seven hundred and seventy seven thousand four hundred and thirty-one dollars.

All which evinces, that during fourteen or fifteen of the early years of the series under consideration, a foundation was laid, by a very extraordinary influx of wealth, for a state of things within the country, which was afterwards to shew itself more distinctly than at first; that is to say, in an *accelerated* advance of the nation's prosperity, at a season when, by some thoughtful and able calculators, a much slower progress than before was rather to be expected:—a season when the *political situation of the world had changed*, and no longer permitted us, on the occasion of our resuming an intercourse with foreign nations, those *exclusive* advantages which we had before enjoyed.

It seems to account for two very remarkable facts,

First, that so young a country had the ability, not merely to encounter a war, but to support the

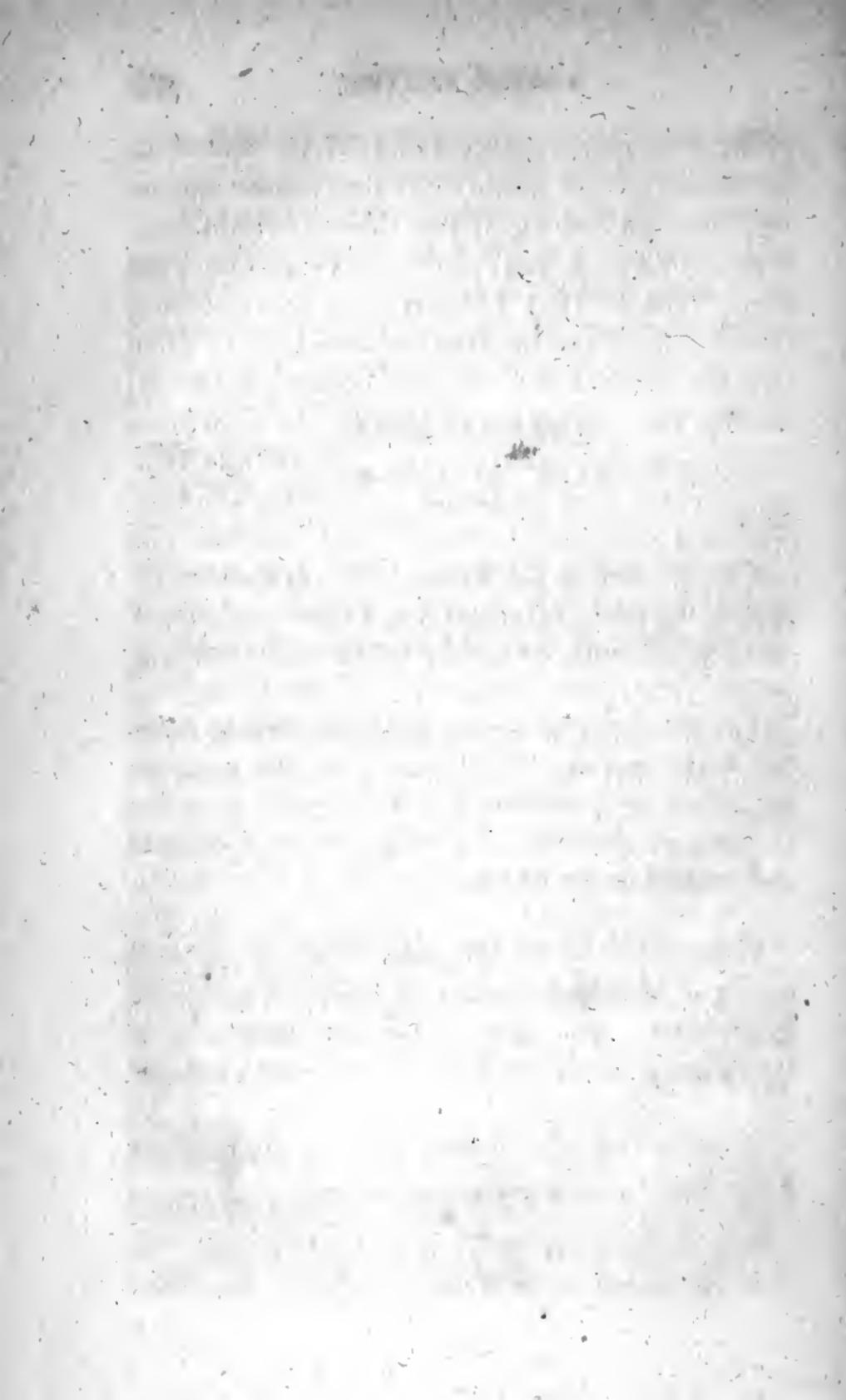
burthen of its necessary attendant, war-taxes, without any acute suffering through the body of the people, or a sensation of their being oppressed in any degree beyond the inconvenience of a limited curtailment of superfluities in living; although that same *foreign commerce*, which had been the main instrument and vehicle of the country's enjoyments in this respect, was for the time annihilated.

Second, that means are now found,—found in the increased produce of industry through the country, by the application of increased capital, to enable government, *at this season of altered circumstances*, to face a much greater annual expenditure than before.

For, in relation to expenditure, apart from any consideration of the existing public debt, which it may, or may not, be thought advisable to extinguish, or to suddenly reduce, by any operation of a sinking-fund;—apart, I say, from this, a considerable increase has taken and is taking place, in the requisites to the several great establishments or departments of State; which the advancement of the times has called for. Our public revenue or annual receipt into the National treasury, it must be remembered, is, and has been, during peace, wholly derived, with a very slender exception, from the Custom-House, or the impost on foreign merchandise and tonnage-duty.

Now, in the prosperous year of 1807, the net amount of customs did not rise to more than sixteen millions four hundred and ninety-two thousand eight hundred and ninety dollars; and the average of the eight years, 1804 to 1811 inclusive, was no more than twelve millions two hundred and twenty-seven thousand five hundred and fifty-one dollars per annum; whereas the average net amount for the eight years following the restoration of peace, viz. 1815 to 1822 inclusive, has risen to twenty-one millions two hundred and sixty-four thousand three hundred and twenty-nine dollars per annum; the net amount for 1822 being therein taken at only nineteen millions;* an estimate which will be exceeded, and which the present year's net customs, 1823, is likely much to exceed in amount, if we may judge from the reviews taken, of what has been passing in our ports of entry.

* A report from the treasury department has since shewn the exact amount of net customs for 1822 to be twenty millions five hundred thousand seven hundred and seventy-five dollars. Consequently, better than the computation, by one million five hundred thousand seven hundred and seventy-five.



EXPLANATION.

THE *red* line on the United States Map here presented, designates an uninterrupted course of inland-navigation through the several sections of the country.

The line includes within it, the connecting artificial works described in the table hereafter inserted; and it has its terminations at the Atlantic sea-ports, at those of the Gulf of Florida, and at Columbia river-mouth on the Pacific.

Engraved lines on the map, shew the several routes of *Main* post road in the United States, from Washington city towards the different extremities of the country, as described in the table *which follows*.

A profile or vertical section of the Hudson and Lake Erie canal, is shewn on this map.

It is to illustrate what has been said of the country's surface, and the facilities for internal conveyance, which, from nature and artificial works conjointly, are likely to exist, that I have caused to be prepared this sheet-map of the United States, extended Westward to the Pacific.

A military survey of our whole line of sea-coast and frontier by land, is prosecuting by an able corps of engineers, under the orders of government; and at the next session of congress, it is probable there will be made a detailed and very luminous report upon the subject, comprising all matters in relation to fortifications already constructed or in execution, and all projects of defensive works against future emergencies. I state this fact, particularly as it is susceptible of having a strong bearing upon the water-improvements now pending; that is to say, in the event of the General government deciding to engage in the construction of any canal or canals, for military defensive purposes. The constitution of the United States is clear, at least on this point, and

leaves us in no doubt as to authority for all needful undertakings of this description. A national high road between Washington city and New Orleans, has been projected, and the subject been much canvassed, and it is thought that government will cause the road to be made.

It will be seen, on inspection, that engraved lines on the maps are made to radiate from the city of Washington, and branch out towards the different extremities of the country; so as to represent the several Main routes of post-road; which may be enumerated, and, together with the cross post-roads, be summed up, as to distance, thus:

TABLE OF POST-ROADS.

The great North Eastern line of road, viz.

From Washington city to Robinstown, in Maine, according to surveys under authority, . . . 868 Miles.

From Washington city varied via Providence, 154

From Washington city varied via Newport, 131

From Boston, Mass. to Concord, N. H., 84

		Miles.
From Springfield, Ms. to Montpelier, Vt.	161	
From New York city to Champlain,	373	
		<u>1,771</u>
The South line of road, viz.		
From Washington city to St. Mary's in Georgia, according to survey,	808	
From Washington city to Annapolis and Dover,	88	
		<u>896</u>
The North Line. From Washington city to fort Niagara, via Harrisburg and Buffalo,		470
The North Western line, viz.		
From Fredericktown, Md. to Detroit in Michigan Territory, via Cleveland,	521	
From Pittsburg to Erie-town,	134	
		<u>655</u>
The West line of road, viz.		
From Washington city to St. Louis in Missouri, via Marietta and Galliopolis,	957	
From Pittsburg to Chillicothe,	208	
From Marietta to Maysville,	174	
From Athens to Portsmouth,	75	
		<u>1,414</u>

The South Western line, viz.

From Washington city to New Orleans, via Knoxville and Nashville in Tennessee, . . .	1,394
From Washington city varied via Fredericksburg in Virg. and Athens in Georgia, . . .	1,128
From Washington city varied via Raleigh and Mobile, . . .	1,161
From Franklinton in Kentucky to Nashville in Tennessee, . . .	264
From Salisbury in N. C. to Augusta in Geo. the upper route, . . .	200
	— 4,147

Some further extensions of Main-road, viz.

Southward; from St. Mary's, through Florida, . . .	
North Westward; from Detroit, through Michigan, . . .	
Westward, and SouthWestward; from St. Louis, and from New Orleans, into Louisiana, Missouri, and Arkansa, . . .	
And Cross-roads in all directions, . . .	
These together, making . . .	79,247

Total extent of Post-roads, established by law, for the transportation of the mail, down to the 31st Dec.	—
1823, Miles	88,600

Of Post-Offices established, down to this period, the number is five thousand two hundred and forty. Of Post-masters, the same. The gross amount of postage, for the twelve months ending on the 1st July, 1823, was Doll. 1,114,345

Expenditures of the Office

during the same; viz.

Compensation to Post-masters,	353,996
Incidental expenses, . . .	30,866
Transportation of the Mails, .	784,600
Payments into the Treasury, .	423
	— 1,169,885

— + —

A **RED** line on the map, is made to designate a series, or one continued course of navigation, through the great sections of the country, including within it, the chief of the water-improvements alluded to, and shewing consequently, the general connexion: the artificial works in question being partly finished or in execution, and partly contemplated. They will, in their final state, connect, by lock and canal, all the natural navigation of the interior, and be as links in a chain of thorough, inland, navigable, commercial intercourse, having communication with the sea, by our ports on the Atlantic border; by those in the Gulph of Florida; and, at some future time, by those on the Pacific. The particulars, I state as follows:

No. 1. Completed lately. The Dismal-Swamp Canal, connecting Albemarle Sound in North Carolina, with the waters of the Chesapeake. It is a sloop-navigation. Miles

Across the Peninsula between the Chesapeake and river Delaware, to connect their waters, which, by the route now chosen, viz. from the Delaware opposite Peapatch Island, westward to Back creek, four or five miles S. of Frenchtown, is in distance, thirteen and a quarter miles, or with windings, something more. The whole, divided into seven sections, will for the present, be adapted to no more than a Sloop-navigation; but will be made susceptible of improvement hereafter; so that, by means of a thorough-cut and some additional works, it may one day admit the navigation of ships drawing twenty feet of water, with the command of the Atlantic ocean for its reservoir. It will then correspond in depth with the great Caledonian canal, and admit the passage of frigates. In which improved state, it is estimated the cost will have been about two millions of dollars.

Length,	Miles
Length,	Miles

No. 2.
in
Execution.

No. 3.	Across New-Jersey, to connect the Delaware with New-York sound.	
Contemplated.	Distance from the Delaware river at Trenton, to the Rariton at Brunswick,—though probably another and shorter route will be selected,	Miles 28
		—
No. 4.	Across Massachusetts, between Rhode Island and Boston harbour.	
Contemplated.	Distance from Taunton to Weymouth; unless other points shall be selected,	Miles 26
		—

The above four Canals once completed for ship-navigation, there will be afforded to sea-vessels, a tide-water inland passage, between Massachusetts and the southern extremity of Georgia, secure from storms and enemies: thus, a sea-vessel, entering the first canal, No. 4, in the Harbour of Boston, may proceed on, as here follows;

Through the Bay of Rhode Island.
Through Long Island sound.
New-York harbour.
Pass Brunswick on the Rariton.

Enter the second canal, No. 3.

Pass Trenton.

Down Delaware river.

Enter the third canal, No. 2.

Down the Chesapeake.

Elizabeth river.

Enter the fourth canal, No. 1.

Albemarle Sound.

Pamlico Sound.

Core Sound.

Bogue Sound.

To Beaufort and Swansborough in North Carolina.

Thence,—some improvements here, perhaps first made,
Through Stumpy and Toomer's sounds,
To Cape Fear.

And, by an open, but short run along the coast to a chain
of Islands, within which,
Along the coast of South Carolina and Georgia,
Arrive at St. Mary's.

No. 5.	Between the Hudson at Waterford, and Lake Champlain at White-hall, or the New-York Northern Canal, communicating with the St. Lawrence river,	Distance,	62
Finished.	Miles		—
No. 6.	The Great Western Canal of New York, connecting the Hudson with Lake Erie.	Length, between Albany and Buffalo; via Schenectady. Little falls, Utica, Rome, Montezuma, Lyons, Rochester, Lockport, Blackrock,	363
Finished	Miles		—
within 30 or 40 miles.			
No. 7.	Between the Chicago, a water of Lake Michigan, and the Plein, a water of the Illinois river, communicating with the Mississippi.	Of this, no regular survey has as yet been made, but the distance to cut, will be short, suppose,	10
Contemplated.	Miles		—
No. 8.	Between the city of Albany, and eight or ten miles below the same, to overcome an impediment in the Hudson, at that place, as to ship-navigation,	Less than	10
Contemplated.	Miles		—

The above to No. 8, completed, there will be formed, in addition to the inland-navigation on our Atlantic border, a thorough navigable communication between the same, and the great lakes of the North, and the great rivers of the West.

No. 9. Along the rapids of the Ohio at Louisville, to connect the upper and lower navigation of the river.—Length of falls, . . Miles . . 2

From Lake Erie to the river Ohio; commencing from some point between Cleveland and Harpersfield on the S. shore of the lake, and striking upon some point of the Ohio, either Pittsburg, or between that and Steubenville. From Painsville on the lake at the mouth of Grand river, across the dividing ground between the waters of that and the Mahoning river, to Pittsburg; this route, it is suggested, may have the preference. This ground, which is all in the Ohio state, except from Beaver river to Pittsburg, has lately been examined with attention, and ably reported upon by professional characters; who bring into view several variations of route, as thus:—By the sources of the Cayahoga river and the Tuscarawas branch of the Muskingum river

By the sources of Black river and the Killbuck branch of the Muskingum.

By the sources of the Maumee and the Great Miami rivers.

By the sources of the Sandusky and the Scioto rivers.

Besides which, it is understood, that commissioners of the

No. 10.
Contemplated.

State of Pennsylvania, now engaged in making surveys, have ascertained a favourable route, between the town of Erie on Lake Erie, and the city of Pittsburg. The distance between the navigable waters of Lake Erie and the river Ohio, at the points of approximation, in one or two of the routes suggested, does not exceed ninety miles; and the expense of a canal has been estimated, by an engineer of experience, at the sum of seven hundred thousand dollars.

Say, length of canal-work,	.	.	.	Miles	90
----------------------------	---	---	---	-------	----

These works to No. 10, accomplished, there will be formed, by way of the river Ohio in its whole course, a second channel of communication between the Atlantic, the Northern, and the Western waters. And it may reasonably be conjectured, that different points of contact, for canals between the Lakes and the Ohio, will be decided on, and the works executed, at some time more or less distant; by which the intermediate route, still comprehending a part, greater or less, of this highly interesting stream, will have varieties accordingly.

To connect, by a continued lock-construction, the tide-navigation of the Potomac at Washington, with the same river at Cumberland, and thence to proceed and form a junction with the Ohio.

This proposed grand work is now before congress, at the special recommendation of the President himself, and we may expect in consequence, that the most minute examination will be made, additionally to what has been done. Already, however, through what may be deemed accurate surveys of the ground, the important information of its perfect feasibility is obtained. The great obstacle that seemed to oppose was, to pass a canal over the dividing ridge of mountains. Previous to a discovery that has very recently been made, any idea of raising a boat, by a series of locks, to an elevation of two thousand four hundred feet and more, above tide water, and lowering it ^{again}* one thousand seven hundred feet, to gain the level of the Ohio river, would have justly enough thought chimerical; but the information now acquired, gives to the thing a different aspect. The locks over some part of the distance, will be numerous, and the work consequently expensive, but fully justified, it is supposed, by the immense advantages to result from this instantaneous navigation. The discovery, it seems, of glades, or natural meadows of considerable extent, dispersed over the

No. 11.
Contemplated.

very summits of the dividing mountains, is what so happily gives a practicability to the plan, in affording the means of an ample supply of water at the summit level. The whole canal-route suggested, is this,

To pass along the meanderings of the Potomac river, from tide water at Washington to Cumberland; thence, to continue up as far as the mouth of Savage river; and thence, by the latter stream and Crabtree creek, ascend to the dividing ridge, which is called the *Little Back-bone*, or Little Savage Mountain. Thus far, the eastern section of the route. The western section, is this,

To proceed along the valley of Deep creek, to the falls, and thence, to take either the ravine of the Yonhoggany river, or strike for Cheat river; and continue on, that way to the Monongahela. The former of these is supposed, in a general estimate of cost, which has been given for the whole undertaking, and which stands thus:

* Lake Erie is stated as being five hundred and sixty-five feet above tide, and the Ohio, at the mouth of Big Beaver, one hundred and twenty-four feet above the Lake: this gives six hundred and eighty-nine feet for the elevation of the river, at that point, above the tide.

No. 11. Contemplated.

1st East. section. From tide water to Cumberland, one hundred and eighty-two miles, at the aver- age rate of eight thousand six hundred and se- venty six Dollars a mile,	Doll. 1,578,954
2nd East. section. From Cumberland to Summit level, comprising forty-six miles of canal, one thousand nine hundred feet lockage,	Doll. 1,763,300
No. 11. Contemplated.	
Summit Level Comprising one mile and a half of Tunnel, five hundred thousand yards cubic of excavation,	Doll. 343,750
Five Western divisions. From Summit level to the Monongahala river, fifteen miles above Pitts- burg, comprising one hundred and ten miles of canal, one thousand five hundred and fifty-nine feet of lockage,	Doll. 1,880,560
Total estimated cost,	Doll. 5,566,564
Distance, by this route, from Washington city to Pittsburgh, Miles .	Miles 360

By the execution of this work, No. 11, the Potomac river becomes also a link in the chain, and a direct navigable line of connexion between the Atlantic and the West, is made to pass through the seat of the National Government.

No. 12.	Works along the river Schuylkill, between Philadelphia and Mount Carbon.	Distance, by the river one hundred and seventeen miles.	Miles.	60
	In progress.			
No. 13.	Length of the Canal-works,	Distance,	Miles.	70
	In progress.			
No. 14.	Contemplated.			
	Contemplated.			
No. 15.	Contemplated.			
	Contemplated.			

From Reading on the Schuylkill, in a South West direction, to Middletown on the Swatara, connecting the rivers Schuylkill and Susquehanna; a point of union between this and the work last described, No. 12, being formed at Reading. This is named, *The Union Canal*, Miles.

To connect the Susquehanna river with the Ohio. The route suggested is through one of the branches of the former, perhaps the Juniata, and the Conemaugh and Alleghany branch of the latter, thirty or forty miles from Pittsburgh. Upon which, the most particular surveys are now prosecuting, by Pennsylvania State-commissioners, and engineers of the United States. Distance soon to be ascertained.

To connect the Susquehanna, with the Genesee and Seneca rivers; so as to communicate with the New York canal, and with Lake Ontario. Surveys on foot will determine as to the eligible points; a cut from the Tioga branch of the Susquehanna to the head of Seneca lake, has been pointed out, Distance to be ascertained.

To connect the Ptapsco with the Susquehanna river, by a canal from the port of Baltimore to the Conewago falls. The estimated cost of this proposed work, according to a report of commissioners of the State of Maryland is two millions six hundred thousand dollars; and the distance, Miles 92

No. 16.
Contemplated.
No. 17.
Contemplated.

To connect the Ptapsco with the Potomac, by a canal from Baltimore, through the district of Columbia, to the falls of Potomac; or in other words, to form a continuation of the proposed grand Pittsburgh canal above described, No. 11, from Washington city to the port of Baltimore. Accurate surveys for this projected work are yet to be made, a rough computation states the cost at less than the sum of one million of dollars, Miles 55

The accomplishment of these last enumerated additional works, to No. 17, will open for choice, according to circumstance and occasion, a most interesting variety in the direct intermediate line of a navigable communication between the Atlantic and the great waters West and North. The Susquehanna river as well as the Potomac, will become a direct link in the chain.

Improvements along the Savannah and the Tennessee rivers, and a connexion between the two. Accurate surveys for the which, are not yet made.

No. 18. Contemplated. Distance, or length of Canal-work, Not yet ascertained.

By this work, No. 18, the direct line of internal-navigation, will be extended into the heart of our Southern district of country. Moreover, the Southern port of Savannah in Georgia, will become, for the interior of every quarter, as occasion may require or invite, a direct outlet to the ocean, and inlet from the same. On one hand, we have the Tennessee river, flowing, after a long circuitous course, into the Ohio, sixty miles above the confluence of the latter with the Mississippi; on the other hand, we have the Savannah river, discharging its waters into the Atlantic, below the port of Savannah.

Improvements, to form a junction of the Tennessee, with the Alabama and Tombecbee rivers, and a navigable course down to the bay of Mobile. Accurate surveys appertaining to which, are yet to be made.

No. 19.
Contemplated.

Distance, or length of canal-work, Not yet ascertained.

By this, No. 19, in addition to the other works enumerated, another direct line of navigable access to the sea, will be given to the whole interior of the country, for occasions of choice and utility; that is to say, besides the present existing Southern channel of the Lower Mississippi, through New Orleans into the Gulf of Florida, there will be opened another Southern channel into the same, through the port of Mobile.

THE foregoing table, altogether, gives, it will probably be admitted, a pretty comprehensive view of water-improvements within the United States. Notwithstanding which, it is far from including every thing of the kind that has been projected, or even executed. I have noticed before, the Middlesex canal in Massachusetts, and that in South Carolina, some very useful canal-work is made to assist the river-navigation of that state: as is the case also in Virginia. In North Carolina, a course of navigation-improvement has been entered on by the state; they have commenced with Cape-Fear river, both below and above the port of Wilmington; as well to deepen the ship-channel from sea, as to render the upper navigation practicable for steam vessels; and the works are prosecuting, under a prospect of much success. In New Jersey, besides the proposed cut between the rivers Delaware and Raritan, a Northern canal, to connect the Delaware and Passaick, is under consideration by the legislature. In Pennsylvania the Conewago, the Conestoga, and the Le-

high rivers, have been highly improved; as there is little doubt the river Delaware itself, very soon will be, from the rapids at Trenton, upward to Easton; and thence perhaps, to Carpenter's Point, seventy miles higher than Easton: the river Susquehanna likewise, at many points of its upper navigation, particularly above Middletown, or the mouth of the Swatara, will receive improvement; and the junctions signified in No. 14 and 15 of the table, being accomplished, Harrisburg, the present seat of the Pennsylvania Government, will then be included in a direct line of navigation from Philadelphia, as follows:—

- 1° To Lake Erie; by way of the river Schuylkill, the Union canal, Lake Seneca, and the Grand canal of New York.
- 2° To the Ohio at Pittsburg; by way of the Schuylkill, the Union canal, the Susquehanna, and West branch thereof, or the Juniata.

Furthermore, there can be no doubt, that attempts will be made, to clear the great Mississippi, in some places, of *snags* and *savviers*, or sunken trees, which now and then occasion fatal accidents.

It might, very possibly, gratify a rising curiosity, to ascertain, but it would at present be extremely difficult to cast up, with any approach to accuracy, the length of a voyage, *within the United States* which, after all or the chief part of the canal-works enumerated in the table shall have been accomplished, and supposing likewise, some enlargement in the scale of this artificial navigation at certain points, in such sort and degree as to accommodate vessels of burthen throughout,—the length, I say, of a voyage, which it might then be practicable for a Steam Boat of some hundreds of tons, to make. Entering on the voyage, we will suppose, at some one of our Eastern sea-ports, and concluding it at the Belize, or at Mobile, in the Gulf of Florida. The voyage to consist, in visiting the different places to which the vessel can have access, proceeding from one to another, without repetition, through all the navigable water-courses of our great rivers and lakes; or, through them and the tributary streams to both, whether great or small, improved and connected as the whole will then be, by artificial means.

We may indeed, enumerate the lakes, and primary rivers of the country, and some of the secondary, and third order of rivers; and so far, make an imperfect sketch of a computation, as follows:—

ROUGH AND IMPERFECT SKETCH OF A NAVIGATION, WITHIN THE
UNITED STATES.

The St. Peters,	} and their tributary waters, as much, say,	} 6,300
The St. Francis,		
The White river,		
The Arkansa,		
The Red river,		

Tributaries to the Mississippi, from the East, viz.
 The Ohio, including the Alleghany and Monongahela branches, . . . 1,300

The Tennessee,	} Tributaries to the Ohio, together, say	} 3,000
The Cumberland,		
The Wabash,		
The Kentucky,		
The Miami,		
The Scioto,		
The Kanhaway		
The Muskingum,		

Carried forward, . . . Miles 23,420

	Brought forward,		Miles	23,420
The river Susquehanna and tributary streams,				500
The Union Canal and river Schuylkill,				180
The Potomac and tributaries,				500
The Rappahannock,				
The York river,				
The James river,				
The Chowan,				
The Roanoke,				
The Tar river,				
The Neus river,				
The Cape Fear,				
The Santee,				
The Pedee,				
The Cooper,				
The Ashley,				
The Edisto,				
	and other rivers of South Carolina, together,			600

The Savannah river, suppose,	300
The Tombecbee and Alabama rivers, suppose,	350
Single line of distance,	26,850
To which add	
or returning distances, necessary to regain points of departure, as much,	26,850
Distance, to be navigated,	Miles 53,700
	—

Besides an almost infinite number of small rivers or water-courses, and many large ones, some of the lakes of the country also, not noticed or included in this estimate, but each affording navigation more or less extensively. In this partial enumeration, I repeat, accuracy is not attempted. I am, in fact, and intentionally so, very much within bounds, perhaps by one half or more, as to distance, in what is likely to be realized some day or other, by several vessels if not by one. It has been said; "were we to compute the extent of navigation, of which the Mississippi river alone, including all its tributaries and their tributary streams, is capable, it would no doubt exceed fifty thousand miles; and consequently, there are of river-coast, one hundred thousand miles."

But further, if at some time hereafter, a navigable pass should be effected from the head, or the upper falls of the Missouri river, through the Chippewan or Stony Mountains, to the head, or navigable water of one of the branches of Columbia river; or, what is perhaps as much or more to be expected, a passage of the kind should be effected, through the river Platte, to Lewis' branch of the Columbia, our inland-navigator may then comprise within his voyage, a very great distance additionally to what is suggested in the forgoing, in a direction Westward, pursuing the main course of one or other of those great Western streams, and visiting on his way the several confluent streams, to the utmost points respectively of their navigable condition; and finally, may conclude his voyage at the mouth of Columbia river, on the shore of the Pacific; unless it happen, that he rather choose to return from thence, through the interior, and conclude it elsewhere. Without, however, taking any of the latter portion of the voyage into account, the sketch of the plan, which I make my navigator strike out for himself, in reference to the above computation, is this:—

VOYAGE THROUGH THE INTERIOR.

To commence, from Boston harbour; or rather at Newbury Port in the Merrimack, and so take through

the Middlesex canal, pursuing the inland line of coast to New York: thence, by the Hudson, to Albany, and through the Grand canal to Buffalo: thence through the Great Lakes: and from the SW. of Lake Michigan, through the river Illinois into the Mississippi; thence to the Falls of St. Anthony, and return; up the Missouri and tributaries thereof, and return; continue down the Mississippi, exploring on the W. the St. Peter's and St. Francis' rivers, the Arkansa and White rivers, and their tributaries; the Red river on the W. also, and return; proceed down the Mississippi to the mouth thereof, and again up the same to the mouth of the Ohio; enter the Ohio and proceed up, exploring in the way, the Cumberland, Wabash, Kentucky, Miami, Scioto, Kanhaway, Muskingum, and other streams; from the river Alleghany, by canal enter the Susquehanna; which having explored, proceed by canal to the river Schuylkill, and thence into the Delaware below Philadelphia. From the Delaware, by canal, enter the Chesapeake; explore the waters of the Potomac, the Rappahanock, York, James, and other Virginia rivers, and, proceeding down the Chesapeake, thence pursue the inland line of Atlantic coast, exploring by the way the Atlantic rivers of North Carolina and South Carolina. Enter and explore the Savannah river; and thence, by canal, the Tennessee; and thence, by other canals, the Tombecbee and Alabama rivers, concluding the voyage at Mobile harbour, in the Gulf of Florida.

Should a *direct* inland passage from Boston harbour or other Atlantic port, to Mobile harbour, be required, a choice will be presented; namely,

By way of the Great lakes, and the river Mississippi; or the river Ohio, and the Mississippi, through New Orleans and the port of Belize; or through the Tennessee and Alabama rivers.

By the Atlantic inland coast, and the Savannah, the Tennessee, and Alabama rivers.

EXTRACT*REFERRED TO IN PAGE 30.*

“IN inspecting the schools of our Western country, we are alarmed lest the population should inmeasurably outgrow the means of instruction, and their intellectual fall short of their numerical weight in our national councils.

“But the apprehension vanishes in a great degree, before the activity, the emulation, and the sagacity which characterize our tramontain brethren. The force with which the mind *vegetates* among them, can be best illustrated by the growth of their plants in a virgin loam. All the faculties knit, spread, and luxuriate, vigorously and wildly, as the branches of their sycamore.

“This intense vitality of the intellect, when fed by science, and the knowledge of mankind, must give the most splendid results. We may judge, from the

specimens of the ore which we have seen in congress, what the metal will be after sublimation.

“ I must confess, that I was lost in admiration, at the prospects which open in that quarter, upon the pride of human intelligence and power. It is a perspective, of which the magnificence can be credible, only to those who have made their examination at leisure upon the spot, and with a recollection of what history relates, as to the adolescence of the mightiest communities mentioned in its annals. At a distance, hardly a suspicion is entertained of the promise—I should say rather, the impending maturity of the *West*. It is a great empire, lying as it were, in ambush for mankind; and destined to explore all parts of the intellectual world.

“ *Liberal* education, by which I mean, the systematic tuition of the sciences and classics, is there exceedingly backward; but the rudiments of mere English education are almost universal.”

Am. Reg.

By official report from the Treasury department, it was ascertained, that there remained in the United States' treasury, at the close of the year 1823, a surplus of above nine millions of dollars, waiting an appropriation on the part of Congress: which has taken place; and it goes towards reducing the Public debt.

It appears likewise, that the nation's Export, for the twelve months which expired on the 30th Sept. 1823, amounted to, . . . Doll. 74,699,030. Exceeding, consequently, according to custom-house entries, the export of the year before, by

Doll. 2,538,749.

The domestic portion of it however, had not increased, but was something less than that of the year immediately preceding.

I CANNOT better conclude, than—I should say, I cannot, in any other way, so well conclude, as by inserting the following official article, to serve as a *memento*; it being so admirably adapted to excite the profoundest reflection upon the attitude and present concerns of the nation.

The article is from the President of the United States, written lately on the occasion of his finding it expedient to urge the Senate to ratify a convention, negotiated with Great Britain, for the suppression of lawless attempts to carry on the Slave-trade. On which occasion, the President made the following highly interesting communication:

“ We have at this moment pending with Great Britain, sundry other negotiations, intimately connected with the welfare and even the peace of our Union. *In one of these*, nearly a third part of the territory of the State of Maine is in contestation. *In another*, the navigation of the St. Lawrence, the admission of Consuls into the British Islands, and a system of

commercial intercourse between the United States and all the British possessions in this hemisphere, are subjects of discussion. *In a third*, our territorial and other rights upon the N. W. coast, are to be adjusted; while a negotiation on the same interest is opened with Russia. *In a fourth*, all the most important controvertible points of maritime-law in time of war are brought under consideration: *And in a fifth*, the whole system of South American concerns, connected with a general recognition of South American independence, may again, from hour to hour, become, as it has already been, an object of concerted operations of the highest interest to both nations, and to the peace of the world."

With Russia, our difference as to the N. W. coast, is now, according to report, adjusted satisfactorily.

Philadelphia, June, 1824.

ERE the foregoing pages have all passed through the press, and got into print; Congress, at Washington, have opened their 36th Federal session, and the President's message, on the occasion, being this day published in Philadelphia, I cannot deny myself an advantage which the opportunity seems to offer; I cannot refrain from thinking that a transcript of the message may be considered in the light of a very suitable and happy final appendage, to grace what will be found to precede; and therefore, the message, at full length, is here added.

I do not think it at all needful to make a single remark upon its various contents, but leave with my respected readers to decide, how far some of the points of my production, which possibly might have been thought to be involved in a degree of obscurity, are now elucidated and made clear; how far some other things, have, or have not, the advantage of now receiving corroboration and authenticity.

THE AUTHOR.

Philadelphia, Dec. 9, 1824.

THE
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

*Fellow Citizens of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives—*

THE view which I have now to present to you of our affairs, foreign and domestic, realizes the most sanguine anticipations which have been entertained, of the public prosperity. If we look to the whole, our growth, as a nation, continues to be rapid beyond example: if to the States, which compose it, the same gratifying spectacle is exhibited. Our expansion over the vast territory within our limits, has been great, without indicating any decline in those sections from which the emigration has been most conspicuous. We have daily gained strength, by a native population, in every quarter: a population devoted to our happy system of government, and cherishing the bond of union with fraternal affection. Experience has already shown, that the difference of climate, and of industry proceeding from that cause, inseparable from

such vast domains, and which, under other systems, might have a repulsive tendency, cannot fail to produce with us, under wise regulations, the opposite effect. What one portion wants, the other may supply, and this will be most sensibly felt by the parts most distant from each other—forming thereby a domestic market, and an active intercourse between the extremes, and throughout every portion of our Union. Thus, by a happy distribution of power between the National and State Governments; governments which rest exclusively on the sovereignty of the people and are fully adequate to the great purposes for which they were respectively instituted; causes which might otherwise lead to dismemberment, operate powerfully to draw us closer together. In every other circumstance, a correct view of the actual state of our Union, must be equally gratifying to our constituents. Our relations with foreign powers, are of a friendly character, although certain interesting differences remain unsettled with some. Our revenue under the mild system of impost and tonnage, continues to be adequate to all the purposes of the government. Our agriculture, commerce, manufactures and navigation, flourish. Our fortifications are advancing, in the degree authorized by existing appropriations, to maturity; and due progress is made in the augmentation of the Navy, to the limit prescribed for it by law. For these blessings we owe to Almighty God, from whom we derive them, and with profound reverence, our most grateful and unceasing acknowledgments.

In adverting to our relations with Foreign powers, which are always an object of high importance, I have to remark, that of the subjects which have been brought into discussion with them, during the present administration, some have been satisfactorily terminated; others have been suspended, to be resumed hereafter, under circumstances more favourable to success; and others are still in negotiation, with the hope that they may be adjusted, with mutual accommodation, to the interests and to the satisfaction of the respective parties. It has been the invariable object of this government, to cherish the most friendly relations with every power, and on principles and conditions which might make them permanent. A systematic effort has been made to place our commerce, with each power, on a footing of perfect reciprocity; to settle with each, in a spirit of candour and liberality, all existing differences; and to anticipate and remove, so far as it might be practicable, all causes of future variance.

It having been stipulated, by the seventh article of the Convention of Navigation and Commerce, which was concluded on the 24th of June, 1822, between the United States and France, that the said Convention should continue in force for two years from the first of October of that year, and for an indefinite term afterwards, unless one of the parties should declare its intention to renounce it, in which event it should cease to operate at the end of six months from such declaration; and no such intention having been an-

nounced, the Convention having been found advantageous to both parties, it has since remained, and still remains in full force. At the time when that Convention was concluded, many interesting subjects were unsettled, and particularly our claims to indemnity for spoliations which were committed on our commerce in the late wars. For these interests and claims, it was in the contemplation of the parties, to make provision at a subsequent day, by a more comprehensive and definitive treaty. The object has been duly attended to since, by the Executive, but as yet it has not been accomplished. It is hoped that a favourable opportunity will present itself for opening a negotiation which may embrace and arrange all existing differences, and every other concern in which they have a common interest, upon the accession of the present King of France, an event which has occurred since the close of the last session of Congress.

With Great Britain, our commercial intercourse rests on the same footing that it did last session. By the convention of 1815, the commerce between the United States and the British dominions, in Europe, and the East Indies, was arranged on a principle of reciprocity. That convention was confirmed and continued in force, with slight exceptions, by a subsequent treaty, for the term of ten years, from the 20th of October, 1818, the date of the latter. The trade with the British colonies in the West Indies, has not, as yet, been arranged by treaty, or other-

wise to our satisfaction. An approach to that result has been made by legislative acts, whereby many serious impediments which had been raised by the parties, in defence of their respective claims, were removed. An earnest desire exists, and has been manifested, on the part of this government, to place the commerce with the colonies, likewise, on a footing of reciprocal advantage, and it is hoped that the British government, seeing the justice of the proposal, and its importance to the colonies, will, ere long, accede to it.

The Commissioners who were appointed for the adjustment of the boundary, between the territories of the United States and those of Great Britain, specified in the fifth article of the Treaty of Ghent, having disagreed in their decision; and both governments having agreed to establish that boundary, by amicable negotiation between them, it is hoped that it may be satisfactorily adjusted in that mode. The boundary specified by the sixth article, has been established, by the decision of the commissioners. From the progress made in that provided for by the seventh, according to a report recently received, there is good cause to presume that will be settled in the course of the ensuing year.

It is a cause of serious regret, that no arrangement has yet been finally concluded between the two governments, to secure, by joint co-operation, the suppression of the slave trade. It was the object of the

British government, in the early stages of the negotiation, to adopt a plan for the suppression, which should include the concession of the mutual right of search, by the ships of war of each party, of the vessels of the other, for suspected offenders. This was objected to by this government, on the principle that as the right of search was a right of war, of a belligerent towards a neutral power, it might have an ill effect to extend it, by treaty, to an offence which had been made comparatively mild, to a time of peace. Anxious, however, for the suppression of this trade, it was thought advisable, in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, founded on an act of Congress, to propose to the British government, an expedient, which should be free from that objection, and more effectual for the object, by making it piratical.

In that mode, the enormity of the crime would place the offenders out of the protection of their government, and involve no question of search, or other question, between the parties, touching their respective rights. It was believed, also, that it would completely suppress the trade, in the vessels of both parties, and by their respective citizens and subjects in those of other powers, with whom, it was hoped that the odium which would thereby be attached to it, would produce a corresponding arrangement, and by means thereof, its entire extirpation forever.—A convention to this effect was concluded and signed in

London, on the 13th day of March, 1824, by plenipotentiaries duly authorized by both governments, to the ratification of which certain obstacles have arisen which are not yet entirely removed. The difference between the parties still remaining, has been reduced to a point, not of sufficient magnitude, as is presumed, to be permitted to defeat an object so near to the heart of both nations, and so desirable to the friends of humanity throughout the world.—As objections, however, to the principle recommended by the House of Representatives, or at least to the consequences inseparable from it, and which are understood to apply to the law, have been raised, which may deserve a reconsideration of the whole subject, I have thought it proper to suspend the conclusion of a new convention until the definitive sentiments of Congress may be ascertained. The documents relating to the negotiation, are, with that intent, submitted to your consideration.

Our commerce with Sweden has been placed on a footing of perfect reciprocity, by treaty; and with Russia, the Netherlands, Prussia, the free Hanseatic cities, the Dukedoms of Oldenburgh and Sardinia, by internal regulations on each side, founded on mutual agreement, between the respective governments.

The principles upon which the commercial policy of the United States is founded, are to be traced to an early period. They are essentially connected with

those upon which their independence was declared, and owe their origin to the enlightened men who took the lead in our affairs at that important epoch. They are developed in their first treaty of commerce with France, of the 6th of February, 1778, and by a formal commission, which was instituted immediately after the conclusion of their revolutionary struggle, for the purpose of negotiating treaties of commerce with every European power. The first treaty of the United States with Prussia, which was negotiated by that commission, affords a signal illustration of those principles. The act of Congress of the 3rd of March, 1815, adopted immediately after the return of a general peace, was a new overture to foreign nations to establish our commercial relations with them, on the basis of free and equal reciprocity. That principle has pervaded all the acts of Congress, and all the negotiations of the Executive on the subject since.

A Convention for the settlement of important questions, in relation to the North West Coast of this continent, and its adjoining seas, was concluded and signed at St. Petersburg, on the — of — last, by the ministers plenipotentiary of the United States, and plenipotentiaries of the imperial government of Russia. It will immediately be laid before the Senate, for the exercise of the constitutional authority of that body, with reference to its ratification. It is proper to add, that the manner in which this ne-

gotiation was invited and conducted, on the part of the Emperor, has been very satisfactory.

The great and extraordinary changes which have happened in the governments of Spain and Portugal, within the last two years, without seriously affecting the friendly relations which, under all of them, have been maintained with those powers, by the United States, have been obstacles to the adjustment of the particular subjects of discussion which have arisen with each. A resolution of the Senate, adopted at their last session, called for information, as to the effect produced upon our relations with Spain, by the recognition, on the part of the United States, of the independent South American governments. The papers containing that information are now communicated to Congress.

A Charge d'Affaires has been received from the independent government of Brazil. That country, heretofore a colonial possession of Portugal, had some years since been proclaimed, by the sovereign of Portugal himself, an independent kingdom. Since his return to Lisbon, a revolution in Brazil has established a new government there, with an imperial title, at the head of which is placed the Prince in whom the regency had been vested, by the King, at the time of his departure. There is reason to expect, that by amicable negotiation, the independence of Brazil will, ere long, be recognised by Portugal herself.

With the remaining powers of Europe, with those on the coast of Barbary, and with all the new South American States, our relations are of a friendly character. We have ministers plenipotentiary residing with the republics of Colombia and Chili, and have received ministers of the same rank, from Colombia, Guatimala, Buenos Ayres, and Mexico. Our commercial relations, with all those states, are mutually beneficial and increasing. With the republic of Colombia, a treaty of commerce has been formed, of which a copy is received, and the original daily expected. A negotiation for a like treaty, would have been commenced with Buenos Ayres, had it not been prevented by the indisposition and lamented decease of Mr. Rodney, our minister there, and to whose memory the most respectful attention has been shewn by the government of that republic. An advantageous alteration in our treaty with Tunis, has been obtained, by our consular agent residing there, the official document of which, when received, will be laid before the Senate.

The attention of the government has been drawn with great solicitude to other subjects, and particularly to that relating to a state of maritime war, involving the relative rights of neutral belligerents in such wars. Most of the difficulties which we have experienced, and of the losses which we have sustained, since the establishment of our independence, have proceeded from the unsettled state of those rights, and the extent to which the belligerent claim

has been carried against the neutral party. It is impossible to look back on the occurrences of the late wars in Europe, and to behold the disregard which was paid to our rights as a neutral power, and the waste which was made of our commerce by the parties to those wars, by various acts of their respective governments, and under the pretext by each that the other had set the example, without great mortification, and a fixed purpose never to submit to the like in future. An attempt to remove those causes of possible variance, by friendly negotiation, and on just principles, which should be applicable to all parties, could, it is presumed, be viewed by none, other than as a proof of an earnest desire to preserve those relations with every power. In the late war between France and Spain, a crisis occurred, in which it seemed probable that all the controvertible principles, involved in such wars, might be brought into discussion, and settled to the satisfaction of all parties. Propositions having this object in view, have been made to the governments of Great Britain, France, Russia, and of other powers, which have been received in a friendly manner by all, but as yet no treaty has been formed with either for its accomplishment. The policy will, it is presumed, be persevered in, and in the hope that it may be successful.

It will always be recollected, that with one of the parties to those wars, and from whom we received those injuries, we sought redress by war. From the

other, with whose then reigning government our vessels were seized in port, as well as at sea, and their cargoes confiscated, indemnity has been expected, but has not yet been rendered. It was under the influence of the latter, that our vessels were likewise seized by the governments of Spain, Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Naples, and from whom indemnity has been claimed, and is still expected, with the exception of Spain, by whom it has been rendered. With both parties we had abundant cause of war, but we had no alternative but to resist that which was most powerful at sea, and pressed us nearest at home. With this, all differences were settled, by a treaty founded on conditions fair and honourable to both, and which has been so far executed with perfect good faith. It has been earnestly hoped, that the other would, of its own accord, and from a sentiment of justice and conciliation, make to our citizens the indemnity to which they are entitled; and thereby remove, from our relations, any just cause of discontent on our side.

It is estimated that the receipts into the Treasury during the current year, exclusive of loans, will exceed 18,500,000 dollars, which, with the sum remaining in the Treasury at the end of the last year, amounting to 9,463,922 dollars and 81 cents, will, after discharging the current disbursements of the year, the interest on the public debt, and upwards of 11,633,011 dollars and 52 cents of the principal, leave

a balance of more than 3,000,000 dollars in the Treasury on the first day of January next.

A larger amount of the debt contracted during the late war, bearing an interest of six per cent. becoming redeemable in the course of the ensuing year, than would be discharged by the ordinary revenue, the act of 26th May, authorised a loan of 5,000,000 dollars, at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, to meet the same. By this arrangement an annual saving will accrue to the public, of 75,000 dollars.

Under the act of the 24th May last, a loan of 5,000,000 dollars, was authorised, in order to meet the awards under the Florida treaty, which was negotiated at par with the Bank of the United States, at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, the limit of interest fixed by the act. By this provision, the claims of our citizens, who had sustained so great a loss by spoliations, and from whom indemnity had been so long withheld, were promptly paid. For these advances, the public will be amply repaid, at no distant day, by the sale of the lands in Florida. Of the great advantages resulting from the acquisition of the territory, in other respects, too high an estimate cannot be formed.

It is estimated that the receipts into the Treasury, during the year 1825, will be sufficient to meet the disbursements of the year, including the sum of 10,000,000 dollars which is annually appropriated

by the act constituting the Sinking Fund, for the payment of the principal and interest of the public debt.

The whole amount of the public debt, on the first day of January next, may be estimated at 86,000,000 dollars inclusive of 2,500,000 dollars of the loan authorized by the act of 26th May last. In this estimate is included a stock of 7,000,000 dollars, issued for the purchase of that amount of the capital stock of the Bank of the United States, and which, as the stock of the Bank still held by the government, will at least be fully equal to its reimbursement, ought not to be considered as constituting a part of the public debt. Estimating, then, the whole amount of the public debt at 79,000,000 dollars, and regarding the annual receipts and expenditures of the government, a well-founded hope may be entertained, that, should no unexpected event occur, the whole of the public debt may be discharged in the course of ten years, and the government be left at liberty afterwards to apply such portion of the revenue as may not be necessary for current expense, to such other objects as may be conducive to the public security and welfare.—That the sums applicable to these objects will be very considerable, may be fairly concluded, when it is recollected, that a large amount of the public revenue has been applied, since the late war, to the construction of the public buildings in this city, to the erection of fortifications along the coast, and of arsenals in different parts of the Union; to the

augmentation of the Navy; to the extinguishment of the Indian title to large tracts of fertile territory; to the acquisition of Florida; to pensions of revolutionary officers and soldiers; and to invalids of the late war. On many of these objects, the expense will annually be diminished, and at no distant period, cease on most of all. On the first day of January, 1817, the public debt amounted to 123,491,965 dollars and 16 cents; notwithstanding the large sums which have been applied to these objects, it has been reduced, since then, 37,446,961 dollars and 78 cents. The last of the public debt will be redeemable on the first of January, 1835, while there is the best reason to believe that the resources of the government will be continually adequate to such portion of it as may become due; in the interval, it is recommended to Congress to seize every opportunity which may present itself, to reduce the rate of interest upon every part thereof. The high state of the public credit, and the great abundance of money, are at this time very favourable to such a result. It must be very gratifying to our fellow-citizens, to witness this flourishing state of the public finances, when it is recollected that no burden whatsoever has been imposed upon them.

The Military Establishment, in all its branches, in the performance of the various duties assigned to each, justifies the favourable view which was presented of the efficiency of its organization, at the last

session. All the appropriations have been regularly applied to the objects intended by Congress; and, so far as the disbursements have been made, the accounts have been rendered and settled, without loss to the public.—The condition of the army itself, as relates to the officers and men, in science and discipline, is highly respectable. The Military Academy, on which the army essentially rests, and to which it is much indebted for this state of improvement, has attained, in comparison with any other institution of a like kind, a high degree of perfection. Experience, however, has shown, that the dispersed condition of the Corps of Artillery is unfavourable to the discipline of that important branch of the Military Establishment. To remedy this inconvenience, eleven companies have been assembled at the fortifications erected at Old Point Comfort, as a school for artillery instruction; with intention, as they shall be perfected in the various duties of that service, to order them to other posts, and to supply their places with other companies for instruction in like manner. In this mode, a complete knowledge of the science and duties of this arm will be extended throughout the whole Corps of Artillery. But, to carry this object fully into effect, will require the aid of Congress; to obtain which, the subject is now submitted to your consideration.

Of the progress which has been made in the construction of Fortifications for the permanent defence

of our maritime frontier, according to the plan decided on, and to the extent of the existing appropriations, the report of the Secretary of War, which is herewith communicated, will give a detailed account. Their final completion cannot fail to give great additional security to that frontier, and to diminish proportionably the expense of defending it in the event of war.

The provisions in the several acts of Congress of the last session, for the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi and Ohio, of the harbour of Presqu'isle on Lake Erie, and the repair of the Plymouth Beach, are in a course of regular execution; and there is reason to believe that the appropriation in each instance will be adequate to the object. To carry these improvements fully into effect, the superintendence of them has been assigned to officers of the Corps of Engineers.

Under the act of the 30th of April last, authorising the President to cause a survey to be made, with the necessary plans and estimates of such roads and canals, as he might deem of national importance, in a commercial or military point of view, or for the transportation of the mail, a board has been instituted, consisting of two distinguished officers of the Corps of Engineers and a distinguished Civil Engineer, with assistants, who have been actively employed in carrying into effect the objects of the act. They have

carefully examined between the Potomac and the Ohio rivers; between the latter and Lake Erie; between the Alleghany and the Susquehanna; and the routes between the Delaware and the Rariton, Barnstable and Buzzard's bay; and between Boston harbour and Narraganset bay. Such portion of the Corps of Topographical Engineers as could be spared from the survey of the coast, have been employed in surveying the very important route between the Potomac and the Ohio. Considerable progress has been made in it, but the survey cannot be completed until the next season. It is gratifying to add, from the view already taken, that there is good cause to believe that this great national object may be fully accomplished.

It is contemplated to commence early in the next season the execution of the other branch of the act, that which relates to roads, and with the survey of a route from this city, through the southern states, to New Orleans, the importance of which cannot be too highly estimated. All the officers of both the Corps of Engineers, who could be spared from other services, have been employed in exploring and surveying the routes for canals. To digest a plan for both objects for the great purposes specified, will require a thorough knowledge of every part of our Union, and of the relation of each part to the others, and of all to the seat of the General Government. For such a digest, it will be necessary that the information be

full, minute, and precise. With a view to these important objects, I submit to the consideration of Congress, the propriety of enlarging both the Corps of Engineers, the Military and Topographical. It need scarcely be remarked, that the more extensively these Corps are engaged in the improvement of their country, in the execution of the powers of Congress, and in aid of the States, in such improvements as lie beyond that limit, when such aid is desired, the happier the effect will be in many views of which the subject is susceptible. By profiting of their science, the works will always be well executed; and by giving to the officers such employment, our union will derive all the advantage, in peace as well as war, from their talents and services, which they can afford. In this mode also, the Military will be incorporated with the Civil, and unfounded and injurious distinctions and prejudices of every kind be done away. To the Corps themselves, this service cannot fail to be equally useful—since, by the knowledge they will thus acquire, they will be eminently better qualified, in the event of war, for the great purposes for which they were instituted.

Our relations with the Indian tribes, within our limits, have not been materially changed during the year. The hostile disposition evinced by certain tribes, on the Missonri, during the last year, still continues, and has extended, in some degree, to those on the upper Mississippi, and the upper Lakes. Seve-

ral parties of our citizens have been plundered and murdered, by those tribes. In order to establish relations of friendship with them, Congress at the last session, made an appropriation for treaties with them, and for the employment of a suitable military escort to accompany and attend the Commissioners, at the places appointed for the negotiations. This object has not been effected. The season was too far advanced when the appropriation was made, and the distance too great to permit; but measures have been taken, and all the preparations will be completed, to accomplish it at an early period in the next season.

Believing that the hostility of the tribes, particularly on the upper Mississippi and the lakes, is, in no small degree, owing to the wars which is carried on between the tribes residing in that quarter, measures have been taken to bring about a general peace among them, which, if successful, will not only tend to the security of our citizens, but be of great advantage to the Indians themselves. With the exception of the tribes referred to, our relations with all the others are on the most friendly footing; and it affords me great satisfaction to add, that they are making steady advances in civilization, and the improvement of their condition. Many of the tribes have already made great progress in the arts of civilized life. The desirable result has been brought about by the humane and persevering policy of the government, and particularly by means of the appropriation for the civilization of

the Indians. There have been established, under the provisions of this act, thirty-two schools, containing nine hundred and sixteen scholars, who are well instructed in several branches of literature, and likewise in agriculture and the ordinary arts of life.

Under the appropriation to authorise treaties with the Creek and Quapaw Indians, commissioners have been appointed and negotiations are now pending, but the result is not yet known.

For more full information, respecting the principle which has been adopted for carrying into effect the act of Congress authorising surveys, with plans and estimates for canals and roads, and on every other branch of duty, incident to the Department of War, I refer you to the report of the Secretary.

The squadron in the Mediterranean has been maintained to the extent which was proposed in the report of the Secretary of the Navy of the last year, and has afforded to our commerce the necessary protection in that sea. Apprehending, however, that the unfriendly relations which have existed between Algiers and some of the powers of Europe, might be extended to us, it has been thought expedient to augment the force there, and, in consequence, the "North Carolina," a ship of the line, has been prepared, and will sail in a few days to join it.

The force employed in the Gulf of Mexico and in the neighbouring seas, for the suppression of piracy, has likewise been preserved essentially in the state in which it was during the last year. A persevering effort has been made for the accomplishment of that object, and much protection has thereby been afforded to our commerce, but still the practice is far from being suppressed. From every view which has been taken of the subject, it is thought that it will be necessary rather to augment than to diminish our force in that quarter. There is reason to believe that the piracies now complained of, are committed by bands of robbers who inhabit the land, and who, by preserving good intelligence with the towns, and seizing favourable opportunities, rush forth and fall on unprotected merchant vessels, of which they make an easy prey. The pillage thus taken, they carry to their lurking places, and dispose of afterwards at prices tending to seduce the neighbouring population. The combination is understood to be of great extent, and is the more to be deprecated, because the crime of piracy is often attended with the murder of the crews, these robbers knowing, if any survived, their lurking places would be exposed, and they be caught and punished. That this atrocious practice should be carried to such extent, is cause of equal surprise and regret. It is presumed that it must be attributed to the relaxed and feeble state of the local governments, since it is doubted, from the high character of the Governor of Cuba, who is well known and much

respected here, that if he had the power, he would promptly suppress it. Whether those robbers should be pursued on the land, the local authorities be made responsible for these atrocities, or any other measure be resorted to, to suppress them, is submitted to the consideration of Congress.

In execution of the laws for the suppression of the Slave Trade, a vessel has been occasionally sent from that squadron to the coast of Africa, with orders to return thence by the usual track of the slave ships, and to seize any of our vessels which might be engaged in that trade. None have been found, it is believed, that none are thus employed. It is well known, however, that the trade still exists under other flags.

The health of our squadron, while at Thompson's Island, has been much better during the present, than it was the last season. Some improvements have been made, and others are contemplated there, which it is believed, will have a very salutary effect.

On the Pacific, our commerce has much increased; and on that coast, as well as on that sea, the United States have many important interests, which require attention and protection. It is thought that all the considerations which suggested the expediency of placing a squadron on that sea, operate with augmented force, for maintaining it there, at least on equal extent.

For detailed information respecting the state of our maritime force on each sea, the improvement necessary to be made in either, in the organization of the Naval establishment generally, and of the laws for its better government, I refer you to the Report of the Secretary of the Navy, which is herewith communicated

The revenue of the Post Office department has received a considerable augmentation in the present year. The current receipts will exceed the expenditures, although the transportation of the mail within the year has been much increased. A Report of the Postmaster General, which is transmitted, will furnish, in detail, the necessary information, respecting the administration and present state of this Department.

In conformity with a resolution of Congress, of the last session, an invitation was given to General La Fayette to revisit the United States, with an assurance that a ship of war should attend at any port of France, which he might designate, to receive and convey him across the Atlantic, whenever it might be convenient for him to sail. He declined the offer of the public ship, from motives of delicacy, but assured me that he had long intended, and would certainly visit our Union in the course of the present year. In August last he arrived at New York, where he was received with the warmth of affection and gratitude to which his very important and disinterested services

and sacrifices, in our revolutionary struggle, so eminently entitled him. A corresponding sentiment has since been manifested in his favour throughout every portion of our Union, and affectionate invitations have been given him to extend his visits to them. To these, he has yielded all the accommodation in his power. At every designated point of rendezvous, the whole population of the neighbouring country has been assembled to greet him; among whom it has excited in a peculiar manner the sensibility of all, to behold the surviving members of our revolutionary contest, civil and military, who had shared with him in the toils and dangers of the war, many of them in a decrepid state. A more interesting spectacle, it is believed, was never witnessed, because none could be founded on purer principles, none proceed from higher or more disinterested motives. That the feelings of those who had fought and bled with him, in a common cause, should have been much excited, was natural. There are, however, circumstances attending these interviews, which pervaded the whole community, and touched the breasts of every age, even the youngest among us.

There was not an individual present, who had not some relative who had partaken in those scenes, nor an infant who had not heard the relation of them. But the circumstance which was most sensibly felt, and which his presence brought forcibly to the recollection of all, was the great cause in which we were

engaged, and the blessings we have derived from our success in it. The struggle was for independence and liberty, public and personal, and in this we succeeded. The meeting with one who had borne so distinguished a part in that great struggle, and from such lofty and disinterested motives, could not fail to affect profoundly every individual, and of every age. It is natural that we should all take a deep interest in his future welfare, as we do. His high claims on our Union are felt, and the sentiment universal that they should be met in a generous spirit. Under these impressions, I invite your intention to the subject, with a view, that, regarding his very important services, losses, and sacrifices, a provision may be made and tendered to him, which shall correspond with the sentiments, and be worthy the character, of the American people.

In turning our attention to the condition of the civilized world, in which the United States have always taken a deep interest, it is gratifying to see how large a portion of it is blessed with peace. The only wars which now exist within that limit, are those between Turkey and Greece, in Europe, and between Spain and the new governments, our neighbours, in this hemisphere. In both these wars, the cause of Independence, of Liberty, and Humanity, continues to prevail. The success of Greece, when the relative population of the contending parties is considered, commands our admiration and applause, and that it has had a similar effect with the neigh-

bouring powers, is obvious.—The feeling of the whole civilized world is excited in a high degree, in their favour. May we not hope that these sentiments, winning on the hearts of their respective governments, may lead to a more decisive result, that they may produce an accord among them, to replace Greece on the ground which she formerly held, and to which her heroic exertions, at this day, so eminently entitle her?

With respect to the contest, to which our neighbours are a party, it is evident that Spain, as a power, is scarcely felt in it. The new States had completely achieved their independence, before it was acknowledged by the United States, and they have since maintained it, with little foreign pressure.—The disturbances which have appeared in certain portions of that vast territory, have proceeded from internal causes, which had their origin in their former governments, and have not yet been thoroughly removed. It is manifest that these causes are daily losing their effect, and that these new States are settling down, under governments elective and representative in every branch, similar to our own. In this course we ardently wish them to persevere, under a firm conviction that it will promote their happiness.

In this, their career, however, we have not interfered, believing that every people have a right to institute for themselves the government which, in their

judgment, may suit them best. Our example is before them, of the good effect of which, being our neighbours, they are competent judges, and to their judgment we leave it, in the expectation that other powers will pursue the same policy. The deep interest which we take in their independence, which we have acknowledged, and in their enjoyment of all the rights incident thereto, especially in the very important one of instituting their own governments, has been declared, and is known to the world. Separated, as we are, from Europe, by the great Atlantic Ocean, we can have no concern in the wars of the European governments, nor in the causes which produce them. The balance of power between them, into which ever scale it may turn, in its various vibrations, cannot affect us. It is the interest of the United States to preserve the most friendly relations with every power, and on conditions fair, equal, and applicable to all. But, in regard to our neighbours, our situation is different.—It is impossible for the European governments to interfere in their concerns, especially in those alluded to which are vital, without affecting us; indeed, the motive which might induce such interference in the present state of the war between the parties, if a war it may be called, would appear to be equally applicable to us. It is gratifying to know, that some of the powers with whom we enjoy a very friendly intercourse, and to whom these views have been communicated, have appeared to acquiesce in them.

The augmentation of our population, with the expansion of our Union, and increased number of States, have produced effects in certain branches of our system, which merit the attention of Congress. Some of our arrangements, and particularly the judiciary establishment, were made with a view to the original thirteen States only. Since then, the United States have acquired a vast extent of territory; eleven new States have been admitted into the Union, and territories have been laid off for three others, which will likewise be admitted at no distant day. An organization of the Supreme Court, which assigns to the judges any portion of the duties which belong to the inferior, requiring their passage over so vast a space, under any distribution of the States that may now be made, if not impracticable in the execution, must render it impossible for them to discharge the duties of either branch, with advantage to the Union.

The duties of the Supreme Court would be of great importance, if its decisions were confined to the ordinary limits of other tribunals; but when it is considered that this Court decides, and in the last resort, on all the great questions which arise under our constitution, involving those between the United States individually, between the States and the United States, and between the latter and foreign powers, too high an estimate of their importance cannot be formed. The great interests of the nation seem to require that

the Judges of the Supreme Court should be exempted from every other duty than those which are incident to that high trust. The organization of the inferior Courts would, of course, be adapted to circumstances. It is presumed, that such a one might be formed as would secure an able and faithful discharge of their duties, and without any material augmentation of expense.

The condition of the Aborigines within our limits, and especially those who are within the limits of any of the States, merits likewise particular attention. Experience has shewn, that unless the tribes be civilized, they can never be incorporated into our system, in any form whatever.

It has likewise shewn, that in the regular augmentation of our population, with the extension of our settlements, their situation will become deplorable, if their extinction is not menaced. Some well digested plan, which will rescue them from such calamities, is due to their rights, to the rights of humanity, and to the honour of the nation.—Their civilization is indispensable to their safety, and this can be accomplished only by degrees—The process must commence with the infant state, through whom some effect may be wrought on the parental. Difficulties of the most serious character present themselves to the attainment of this very desirable result, on the territory on which they now reside.

To remove them from it by force, even even with a view to their own security and happiness, would be revolting to humanity, and utterly unjustifiable.—Between the limits of our present States and Territories, and the Rocky Mountains, and Mexico, there is a vast territory to which they might be invited, with inducements which might be successful. It is thought, if that territory should be divided into districts, by previous agreement with the tribes now residing there, and civil governments be established in each, with schools for every branch of instruction, in literature and in the arts of civilized life, that all the tribes now within our limits might gradually be drawn thither. The execution of this plan would necessarily be attended with expense, and that not inconsiderable; but it is doubted whether any other can be devised, which would be less liable to that objection, or more likely to succeed.

In looking to the interest which the United States have on the Pacific Ocean, and on the Western coast of this continent, the propriety of establishing a military post at the mouth of Columbia river, or at some other point in that quarter, within our acknowledged limits, is submitted to the consideration of Congress. Our commerce and fisheries on that sea and along the coast have much increased, and are increasing. It is thought that a military post, to which our ships of war might resort, would afford protection to every interest, and have a tendency to

conciliate the tribes to the North West, with whom our trade is extensive. It is thought also, that by the establishment of such a post, the intercourse between our western States and Territories and the Pacific, and our trade with the tribes residing in the interior, on each side of the Rocky Mountain, would be essentially promoted. To carry this object into effect, the appropriation of an adequate sum to authorise the employment of a frigate, with an officer of the Corps of Engineers, to explore the mouth of the Columbia river, and the coast contiguous thereto, to enable the executive to make such establishment, at the most suitable point, is recommended to Congress.

It is thought, that attention is also due to the improvement of this city. The communication between the public buildings and in various other parts, and the grounds around those buildings, require it. It is presumed, also, that the completion of the Canal from the Tiber to the Eastern Branch, would have a very salutary effect. Great exertions have been made, and expenses incurred, by the citizens, in improvements of various kinds; but those which are suggested, belong exclusively to the government, or are of a nature to require expenditures beyond their resources. The public lots which are still for sale, would, it is not doubted, be more than adequate to these purposes.

From the view above presented, it is manifest that the situation of the United States, is in the highest degree prosperous and happy. There is no object which as a people, we can desire, which we do not possess or which is not within our reach. Blessed with government, the happiest which the world ever knew, with no distinct orders in society, or divided interest in any portion of the vast territory over which their dominion extends, we have every motive to cling together which can animate a virtuous and enlightened people. The great object is to preserve those blessings, and to hand them down to our latest posterity. Our experience ought to satisfy us that our progress, under the most correct and provident policy, will not be exempt from danger.

Our institutions form an important epoch in the history of the civilized world. On their preservation and in their utmost purity, every thing will depend. Extending, as our interests do, to every part of the inhabited globe, and to every sea, to which our citizens are carried by their industry and enterprise, to which they are invited by the wants of others, and have a right to go, we must either protect them, in the enjoyment of their rights, or abandon them, in certain events, to waste and desolation.

Our attitude is highly interesting, as relates to other powers, and particularly to our Southern neighbours. We have duties to perform with respect to all, to

which we must be faithful. To every kind of danger, we should pay the most vigilant and unceasing attention; remove the cause where it may be practicable, and be prepared to meet it when inevitable.

Against foreign danger, the policy of the government seems to be already settled. The events of the late war admonished us to make our maritime frontier impregnable, by a well digested chain of fortifications, and to give efficient protection to our commerce by augmenting our Navy to a certain extent, which has been steadily pursued, and which it is incumbent upon us to complete as soon as circumstances will permit. In the event of war, it is on the maritime frontier that we shall be assailed. It is in that quarter, therefore, that we should be prepared to meet the attack. It is there, that our whole force will be called into action to prevent the destruction of our towns, and the desolation and pillage of the interior. To give full effect to this policy, great improvements will be indispensable. Access to those works, by every practicable communication, should be made easy, and in every direction. The intercourse also between every part of our Union, should be promoted and facilitated, by the exercise of those powers which may comport with a faithful regard to the great principles of our Constitution. With respect to Internal causes, those great principles point out, with equal certainty, the policy to be pursued. Resting on the people, as our governments do, State-

and National, with well-defined powers, it is of the highest importance that they severally keep within the limits prescribed to them. Fulfilling that sacred duty, it is of equal importance that the movement between them be harmonious, and in case of any disagreement, should such ever occur, a calm appeal be made to the people, and that their voice be heard and promptly obeyed. But governments being instituted for the common good, we cannot fail to prosper, while those who made them are attentive to the conduct of their representatives, and control their measures. In the pursuit of these great objects, let a generous spirit, and national views and feelings be indulged, and let every part recollect that, by cherishing that spirit, and improving the condition of the others, in what relates to their welfare, the general interest will not only be promoted, but the local advantages be reciprocated by all.

I cannot conclude this communication, the last of the kind which I shall have to make, without recollecting with great sensibility and heart felt gratitude, the many instances of the public confidence, and the generous support, which I have received from my fellow citizens, in the various trusts with which I have been honoured. Having commenced my service in early youth, and continued it since, with few and short intervals, I have witnessed the great difficulties to which our Union has been exposed, and admired the virtue and courage with which they were sur-

mounted. From the present prosperous and happy state, I derive a gratification which I cannot express. That these blessings may be preserved and perpetuated, will be the object of my unceasing prayers to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe.

JAMES MONROE.

Washington, Dec. 7, 1824.

EXPORTS.

ACCORDING to official report, the United States-export, for the year ending on the 30th September, 1824, amounted to 74,933,488 dollars. Which exceeds that of the year preceding by 234,458 dollars.

It is composed as follows:—

Of Domestic commodities, Doll.	49,684,709
Foreign Do. re-shipped, . . .	25,248,779

Total,	Doll. 74,933,488
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In consequence whereof, for the three years ending on the same day, the average amount of export, proves to have been, viz.

Of Domestic commodities, Doll.	48,904,732
Foreign Do. re-shipped, . . .	25,026,201

Average-total per annum, for	
1822, 1823, 1824, . . .	Doll. 73,930,933

And with respect to Ratio between the two divisions of export, it is seen to be a very near approach to the proportion of Two to One, in favour of *Domestic*.

PUBLIC DEBT.

It appears that, of the principal of the United States-debt, stated in page 127, as due on the first of January, 1823, say Doll. 83,777,431 There has been redeemed, the sum of, 7,232,428 But, by a new loan of five millions of Dollars, authorised under an act of Congress, 24th May, 1824, to fulfil the Florida treaty with Spain, an augmentation, to that amount, was made, say 5,000,000

So that,

On the 1st January, 1825, the aggregate amount of principal stands thus, Doll. 81,545,003

And the particulars are as follows:—

6 per cents, redeemable in 1825	Doll. 7,654,570
6 per cents, Do. in 1826	. . 19,002,357
6 per cents, Do. in 1827	. . 13,001,438
6 per cents, Do. in 1828	. . 9,490 099
6 per cents, Do. in 1831 18,902
5 per cents, Do. in 1832	. . 1,018,901
4 1-2 per cents, Do. in 1832	. . 5,000,000
5 per cents, Do. in 1833 18,901
4 1-2 per cents, Do. in 1833	. . 6,654,154
4 1-2 per cents, Do. in 1834	. . 1,654,154
5 per cents, Do. in 1835	. . 4,735,296
3 per cents, Do. at the pleasure of Government	. . 13,296,231

The which, is without including seven millions of 5 per cent stock, issued in payment for 70,000 Bank of United States shares, which are holden by Government.

Of the thirty-two million of dollars redeemable as above, in 1826 and 1827, it is proposed to postpone to a later period, the payment of about eighteen millions, and upon this, to reduce the rate of interest, for the additional term: which may be effected, it is supposed, either by an exchange of stock or by a new loan, at $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent, and possibly at less.



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ERRATA AND CONCLUSION.

In the Note, page 60, the word
Commissioners, should be, *Surveyors*.

Page 100, line 5, *production*, should be, *productions*.
14, *Missouri*, should be, *State of Missouri*.

Do. 105, line 17, *Madan*, should be, *Mandan*.
Do. 135, line 8, *maps*, should be, *map*.
Do. 161, line 5, *or*, should be, *For*.

It is proper moreover to mention, that with regard to the proposed Canal No. 7 in the Table of Canals, a regular survey of the ground has been made, under a commission from the State of Illinois, and a report been rendered to that Legislature, but nothing further as to the work has yet taken place. And, finally upon this topic, I would not for a great deal, omit to mention that in the State of New York, various new Canals, and a multitude of other Public works, are recommended to the attention of the Legislature, by the Governor of New York, in his address of last week; —a State-paper which will hardly be read without interest, or consulted without profit.

ALTHOUGH it is with regret, that the writer perceives the above six items of *Errata* to have crept into the present work, yet in performing the duty of noticing the same, he acknowledges that he finds himself more than compensated for the misfortune, by the opportunity, which this notice affords him, of mentioning to those of his respected readers who may not already be acquainted with the fact, that the portion of country which he has denominated "North West Territory," is included within the jurisdiction of "Michigan Territory," the whole being provisionally under one Governor appointed by the United States. After that Michigan-proper, or the Peninsula, shall have been received into the Union in the capacity of a "State," the residue of territory will receive from us some other name, and one that shall be more appropriate than that which it has been known by, of "North West,"

The high range of Western mountains also, which have been denominated "Stony," "Rocky," or "Chippewan," are henceforward to resume their more ancient appellation of "Oregon Mountains," and the

“Columbia river” that of “Oregon river:” at, or near the mouth of which, it is now decided we shall soon have a military establishment; Government being, at this very moment, busied in considering upon proper arrangements for it.

I am peculiarly gratified likewise, in referring my readers to a certain route traced upon the sheet-map belonging to this work. It is from the Western extremity of the State of Missouri, to the city of Santa Fé in New Mexico. It commences near Fort Osage, striking upon the Arkansa, and along the ascending direction of that and the Semerone rivers for several hundred miles, thence leads to, and across the chain of mountains at a practicable pass, and thence direct into the territory of New Mexico; striking, in the first instance, upon the settlement of Taos, and continuing on thence to the city of Santa Fé. *This*, being the track actually pursued by the very remarkable *Caravans*, or Wagon-expeditions, fitted out, in the course of last year, by our enterprising Missouri citizens. They consisted of four distinct caravans or companies, fitted out in February, May, August and November; with views of trading, in part with the Indians for peltry, but in greater part with the Spanish Americans for gold and silver. The November party, and some portion of the others are still on their travels, or perhaps, now in winter quarters, on the banks of Arkansa, and may return home in the spring, or summer.

In relation to what has been accomplished, and what has been brought to light through these expeditions, there has been, within the last week, a regular and circumstantial communication made to Congress, now in session. On the reading whereof, we are told, the members of the House were little short of being *electrified with astonishment*, at the *wondrous* things brought into view, by the details of the narration as it proceeded. The shock, indeed, it appears, on this occasion, was of a complex nature: for it was made up, in part of that kind of *romantic surprize* which some of the “Tales of the East” have the fascinating power to excite, whilst the auditory ever perceived something present, to remind them they were receiving impressions, not of Fairies and Fairy-land, but of *real existences* actually abiding in these regions of the “West:”—in part also, made up of that *impressiveness*, which, the many so very unexpected *realities*, presented for consideration, created in the mind, proportionate to the vast importance which the knowledge of them was understood as being pregnant with. They were presented under such a point of view, as to raise up ideas of available resources throughout the countries spoken of, in waiting only to be called forth, for the extension of our individual and national career of enterprize to a degree, and with a novelty in the mode, far beyond what has, until the present time, been dreamed of, even by imaginations the most exalted amongst us.

But, the writer of these pages, not wishing either to be enthusiastic in expression, or to be thought so in his feelings, will endeavour to do, even upon this topic of excitement, like as he has done upon other occasions, that is to say, in stating to his readers, facts as he finds them, he will endeavour not only to be plain, but also not to exceed the probable reality; and therefore, he has no more than simply to add; that, Congress having at this moment the subject regularly before them, it will be legislated upon in such manner and degree as may appear most conducive to the public weal; or, in other words, there will probably be made, such provision and such proper arrangements as the occurrence shall appear to require, for duly *protecting* and *facilitating* the United States' commerce with the Interior possessions of Mexico, or other Spanish American provinces or possessions, and for establishing the same on a safe and permanent basis. The arrangements to comprehend, as a matter of course, all needful measures for fixing and maintaining a friendly and commercial intercourse with the Indian tribes generally, both West and East of the mountains.

Such is the matter, claiming just now to be acted upon; which the writer would not willingly have foregone the opportunity of thus taking notice of, although he cannot, as yet, present it as more than an embryo occurrence of the day. Possibly, at some little distance of time from the present, in the event that

“these few lines” be not received with an unfavourable *accueil*, and that he should “live and do well,” he may have the gratification of presenting a few supplementary ones. Along with which, in that case, he will, if he be enabled so to do, exhibit, by a Statistical Comparison between things at that supposed time, and the time now or lately present, the progress which this particular branch, or circle of the United States’ commerce;—taking within its circumference, *the Great slope of continent West of the Oregon Mountains. in which are situate the Valleys of the Multnomah and Bonaventura rivers down to the Pacific ocean. together with the Spanish American provinces or possessions more to the South and South East;*—shall then have made.

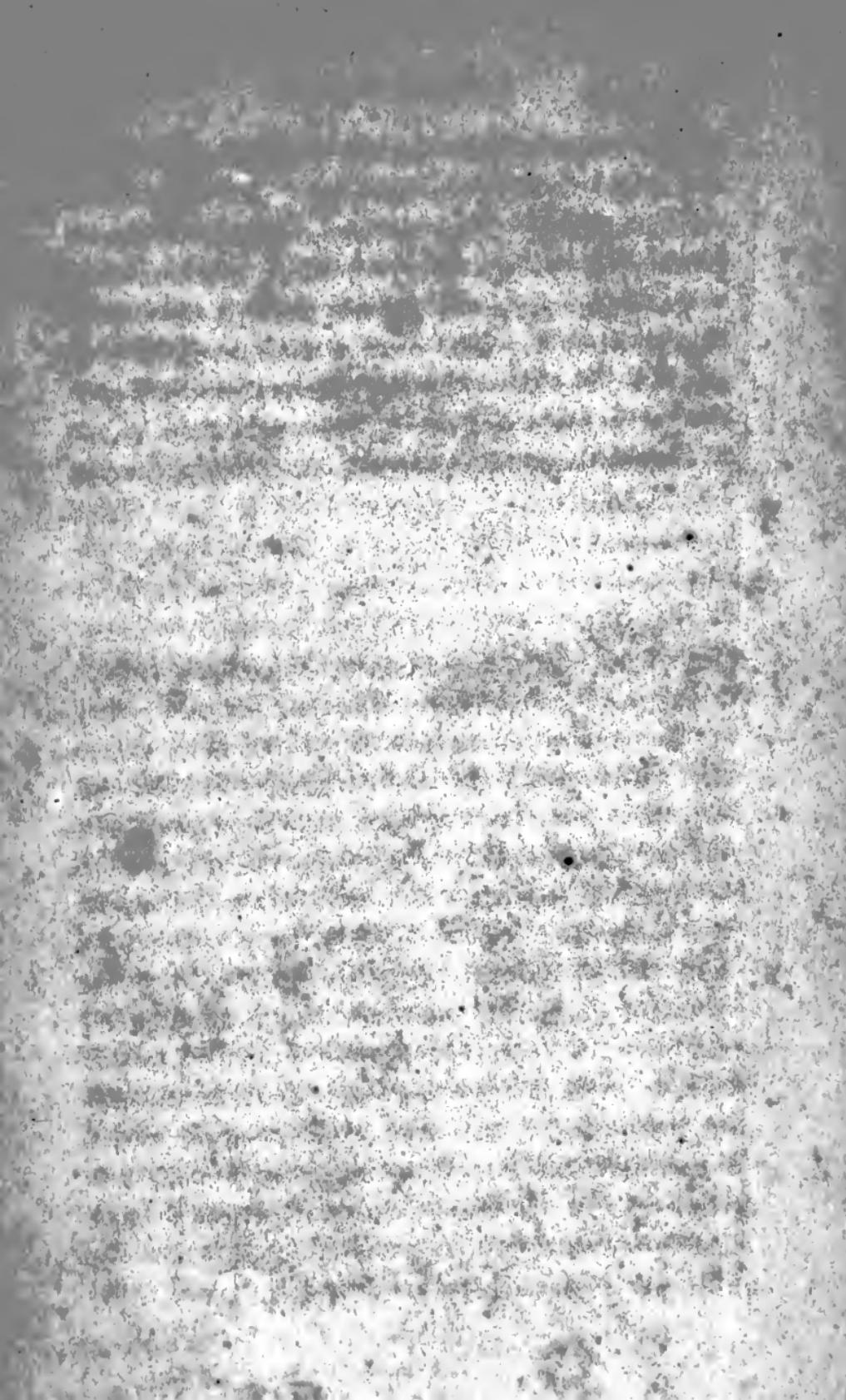
It might have been stated above, that the caravan of last summer, on arriving at Santa Fé, separated; and such parts of the company as were not willing to conclude their outward adventures there, proceeded farther; some South toward the Passo del Norte, and into New Biscay; some South Westwardly toward the Gulf of California, and some taking the descent, Westward, of the Continental slope to the Pacific. The gold and silver mines situate in New Biscay, Senora, and Sinaloa, which our adventurers purposed visiting in their excursion, are numerous, and said to be the richest of all the mines in those metals.

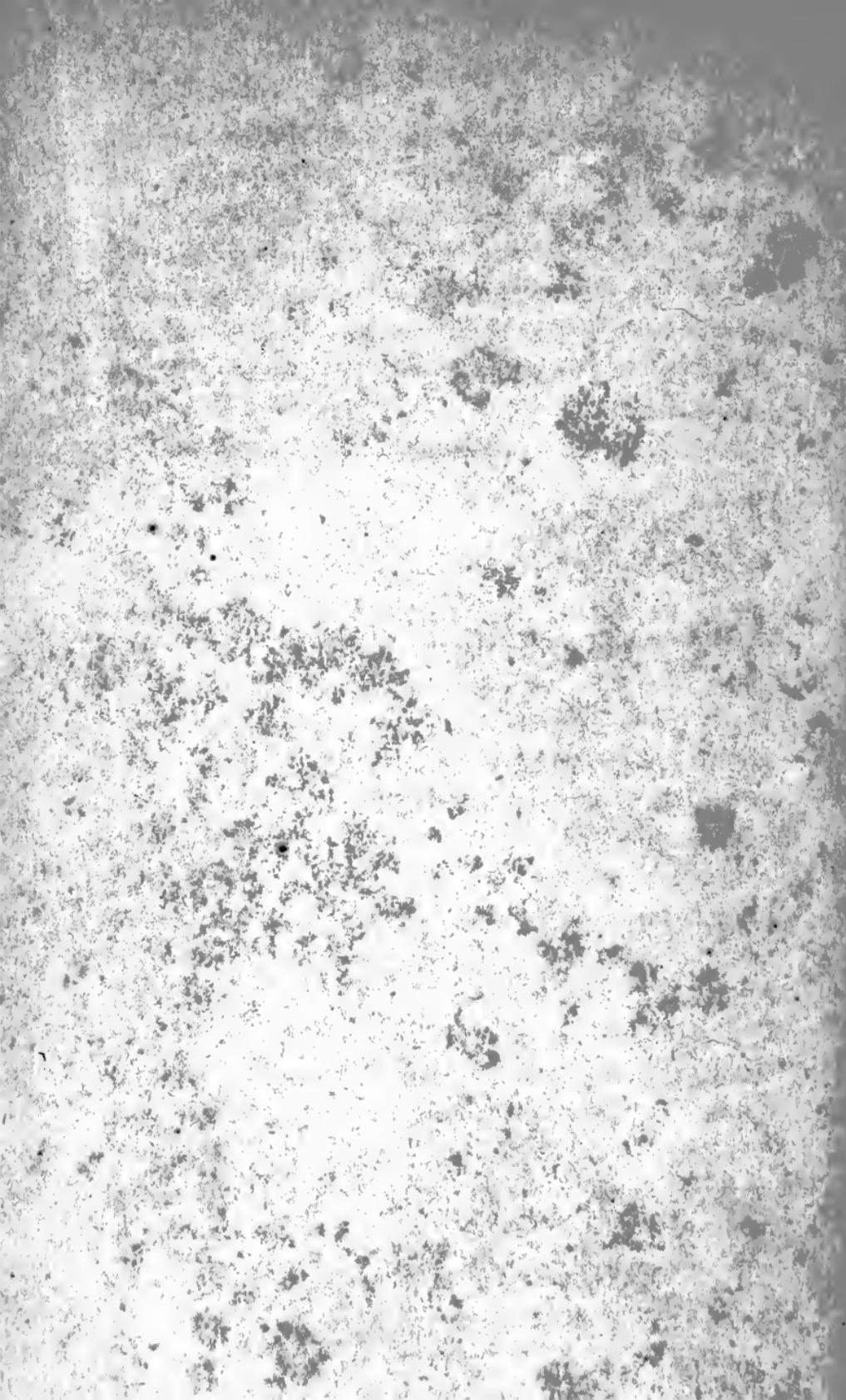
With regard to a few particular distances from Santa Fé, it might also have been stated, that to the nearest point of the Arkansa river, is about two hundred and fifty miles, to the nearest branch of the Kansas about three hundred and ten miles, and to the Red river, about seventy miles. The surface of what has been termed "Internal provinces" of Mexico, is stated, upon authorities in the country, as measuring very near one million of square miles.

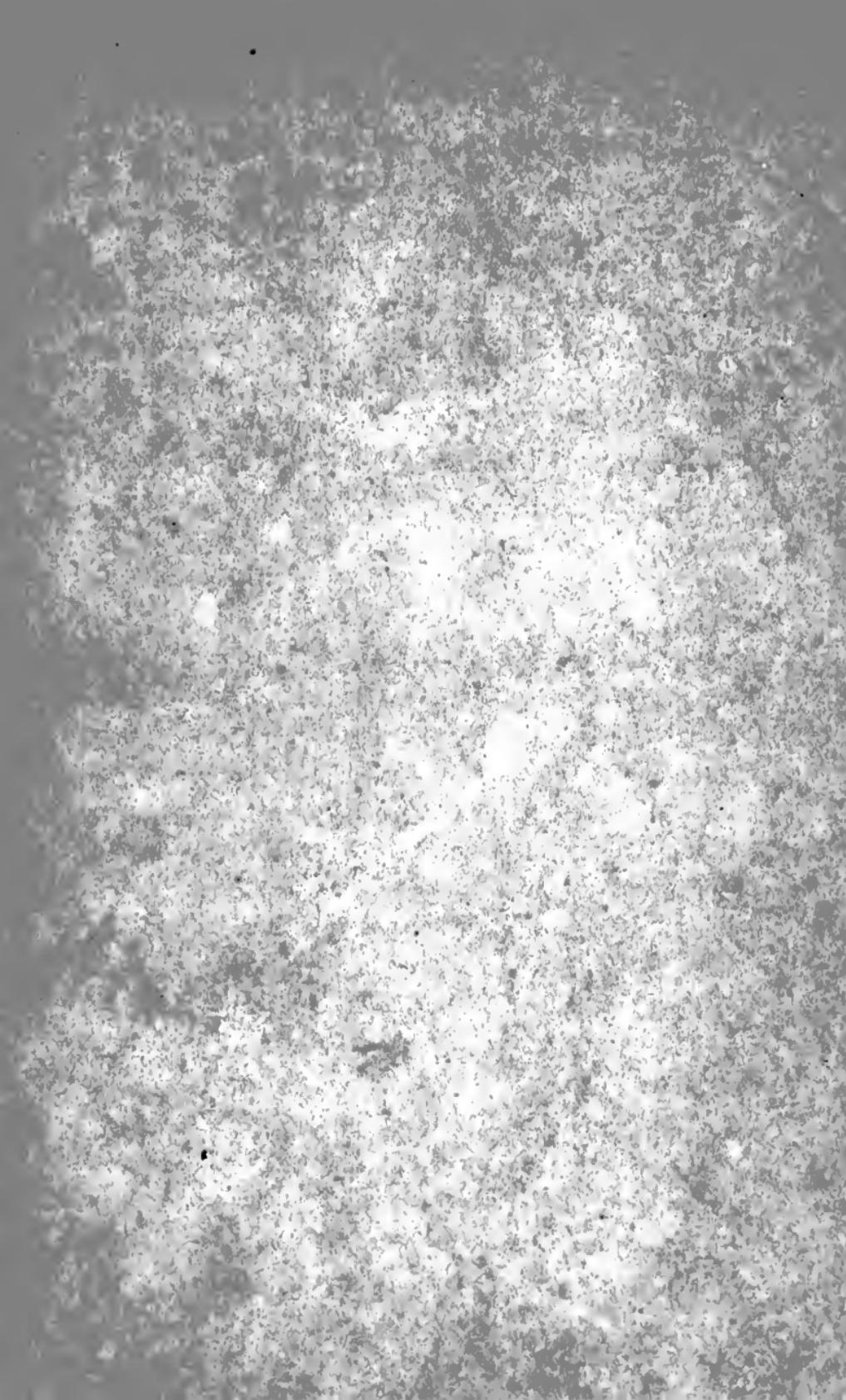
And now, as the writer finds himself compelled in good earnest to take leave of his readers, he begs to devote this very last moment to the purpose of respectfully observing to them, that if it so should happen, there is little or nothing discovered in all that his labours, throughout this volume, have produced, which is of a character that can claim to be classed with either the "useful," or the "agreeable," he would in that case, or indeed, whether he be so unfortunate or not, presume to refer them, for an attentive perusal, to Governor Clinton's address on the 4th instant, to the legislature of the State of New York; because, *there* they may be certain of not meeting with disappointment in either respect. If there is matter to invite the salutary and necessary cravings of the *practical statesman* and experimenter, there is likewise an attractive and varied re-

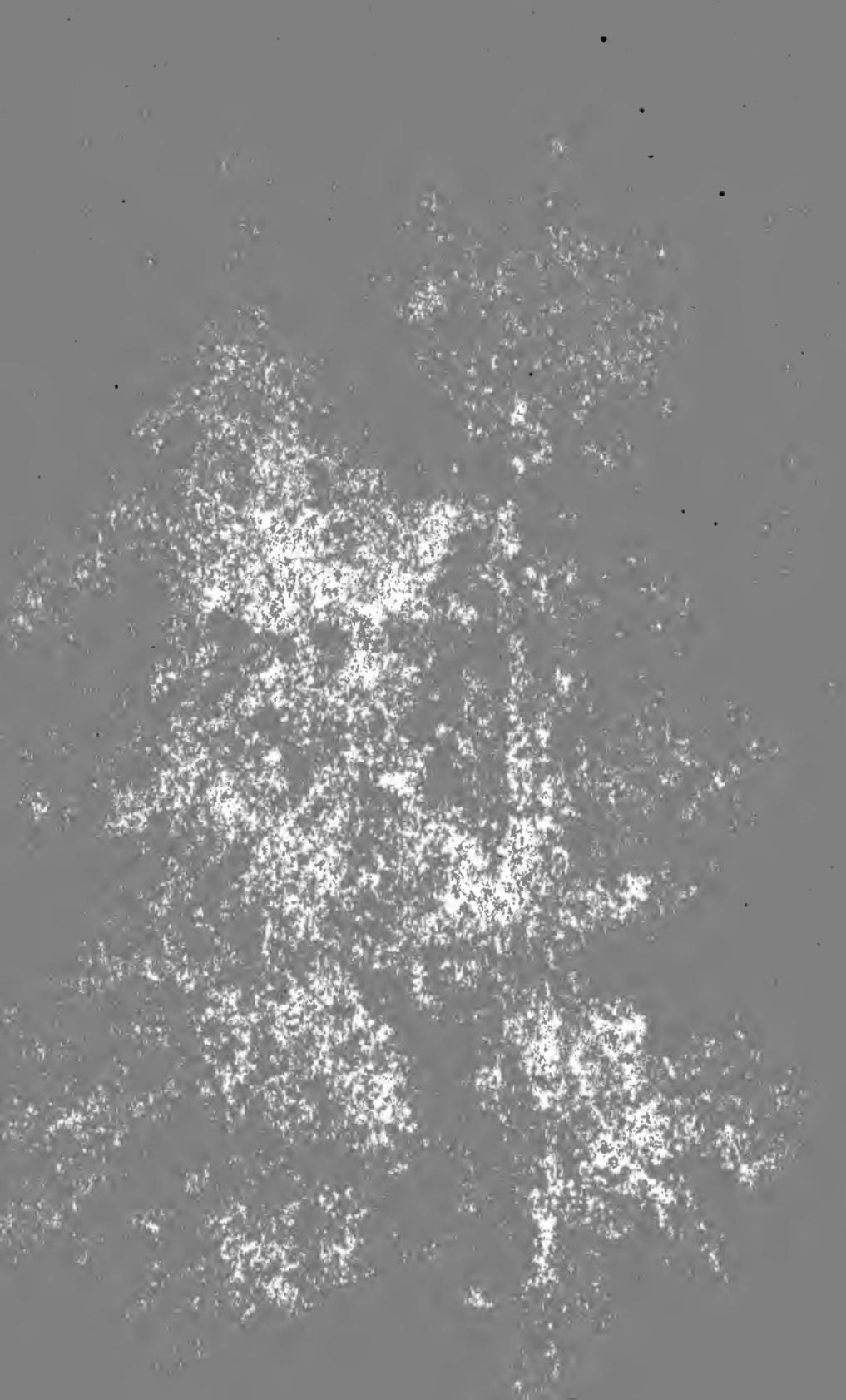
gale spread out, where the loftiest of our *anticipators* may feast and welcome, upon the stupendous in conceptions, and splendid imagery. Perhaps, some condensation of *matter*, and some curtailment of *variety* in the composition, might not have been unfavourable to the great object of a general dissemination through the press, and universal approbatory perusal: but, THIS, with submission.

Philadelphia, January 11, 1825.

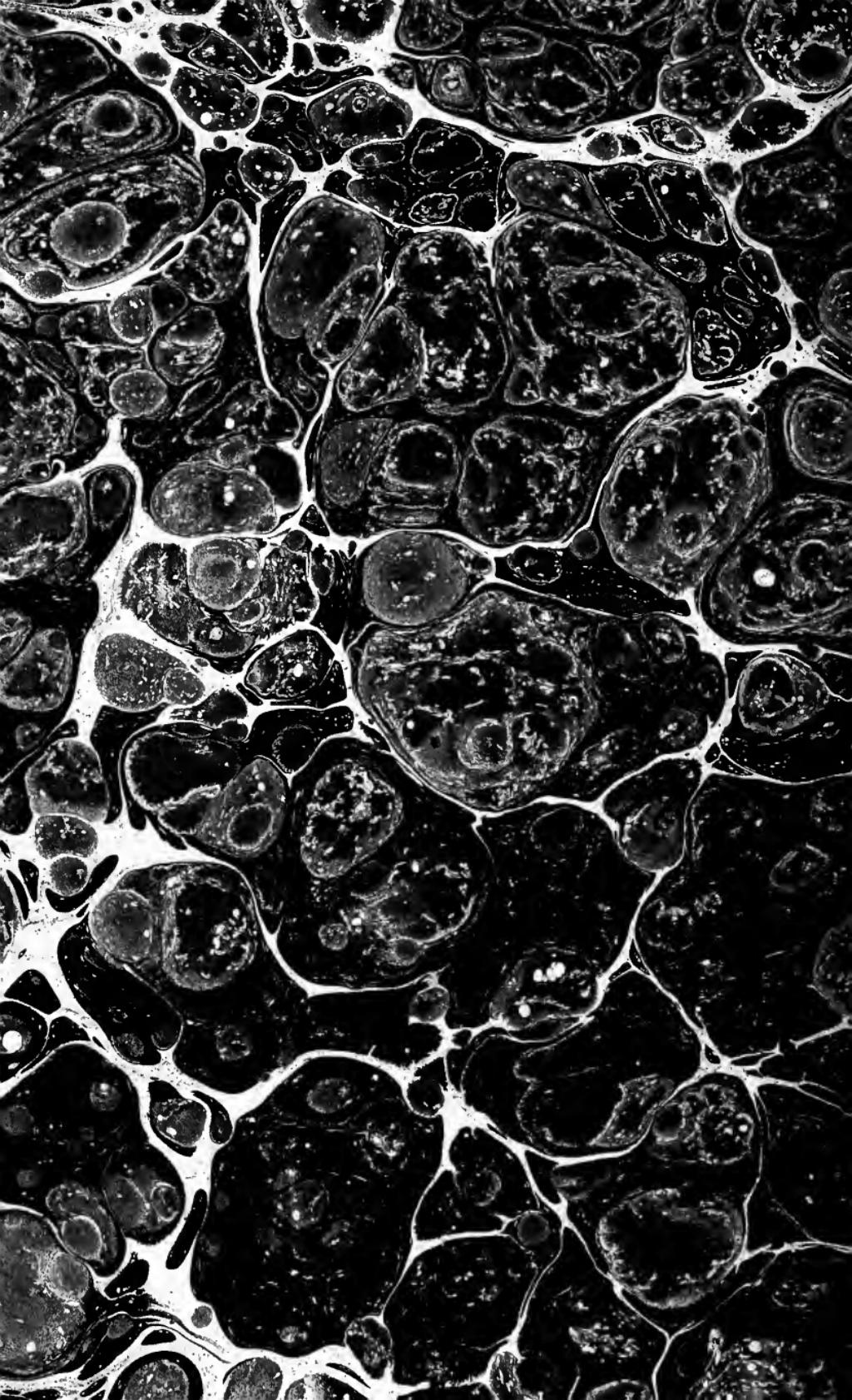








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